

wildland areas, for the adoption of wildland areas by the General Assembly, for the authority to purchase land or scenic easements for inclusion in the system, to provide for the use of areas within the system, and generally relating to a Wildlands Preservation System.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 345B of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "In General," be and it is hereby repealed and that new Section 345B be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof to stand in the place of the section so repealed and to read as follows :

345B.

[(a) *Acquisition, etc.*—The Department may accept gifts of land or wetlands to the State, or may purchase land or wetlands in the name of the State to be held, restored and administered as natural areas, and may also designate and set aside areas in the State forests and State parks as natural areas.

(b) *Definition.*—"Natural areas" means limited areas of land or water which have retained their wilderness character, although not necessarily completely natural and undisturbed, or have rare or vanishing species of plant or animal life or similar features of interest which are worthy of preservation for the use of present and future residents of the State, and may include unique ecological, geological, scenic and contemplative recreational areas on State lands.

(c) *Classification.*—Natural areas held by the State shall include and be designated as one or more of the following three types and the location of each shall be described in the designation :

Type 1. Primitive areas which by their size or location are in effect untouched by urban civilization, and can therefore offer the experience of solitude and self-reliance. Whereas, lands at the higher elevations are important for protection of watersheds, are ecologically vulnerable if unwisely altered by human interference, and often may be uneconomic for logging or construction, it is hereby found that such lands generally may be suitable for this classification.

Type 2. Units of importance for all the natural sciences, especially ecology, and with outstanding value for education and research and for the appreciation of natural processes. Preservation in the desired natural condition shall be the prevailing purpose of such holdings. Visitation shall be regulated so as to ensure this preservation on a permanent basis.

Type 3. Areas which are not of ecological or primitive stature, but which have the appearance of being in an untouched natural state, or which are capable of attaining that appearance if held and managed for this purpose.

(d) *Regulation of land uses and practices.*—On natural areas of type 1, 2 or 3 all land uses and practices shall be subject to regulations of the Department to carry out the purposes of this sec-