

No. 21

(Senate Joint Resolution 40)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting the Maryland Environmental Service to develop and implement a program to utilize sewage sludges to improve soil quality, increase opportunities for desired land uses and reduce environmental pollution.

WHEREAS, The improvement of the quality of Maryland's waters requires high levels of sewage treatment to remove pollutants; and

WHEREAS, The removed pollutants become residues that are a serious threat to natural resources and public health if improperly released to the environment; and

WHEREAS, The volume of these residue wastes, commonly known as sewage sludge, is increasing and can be expected to continue to increase as treatment becomes more efficient; and

WHEREAS, Usual sludge disposal methods commonly practiced in the past such as ocean disposal and incineration cause active or potential air and water pollution and can be very costly; and

WHEREAS, Sewage sludges contain organics and other materials which can greatly improve barren and depleted soils and be used to restore and reclaim land disturbed by the extraction of coal and other minerals; and

WHEREAS, The proper application of sewage sludges to poor quality soils would be of economic value to agriculture, improve wildlife habitats, and increase land values; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has large areas of land which could benefit from such application; and

WHEREAS, All of the residents of the State would benefit by the conversion of sewage sludge from a dangerous and costly waste into a beneficial resource; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Maryland Environmental Service develop and implement as rapidly as feasible a program to utilize sewage sludges to improve soil quality, increase opportunities for desired land uses, and reduce environmental pollution; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Maryland Environmental Service report to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 1973 on the actions it has taken to achieve the objectives of this Resolution; and, be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of the legislation be sent to the Governor, the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Director of the Maryland Environmental Service.*

Approved May 5, 1972.