

subtitle "Oysters and Clams," to change the publication requirement prior to reclassification of a submerged area of the State from natural oyster bed to barren bottom by the Department of Tidewater Fisheries.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 708(d) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Oysters and Clams," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

708.

(d) Before the Department of Tidewater Fisheries may reclassify any submerged area of the State from natural oyster bed, excluded from leasing, to barren bottom open to being leased, it shall advertise the time, place, and purpose to reexamine the area, [twice] *once* a week for [two] *three* successive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, if the area is within county waters, or in a newspaper of general circulation in the State, if the area is not within the waters of any county. Any members of the public may be present at the reexamination. If any person present then and there offers to make further tests in the presence of the agents of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries they shall witness same and make note of the findings. If upon such reexamination the Department of Tidewater Fisheries proposes to reclassify the area from natural bed to barren bottom, it shall first hold a public hearing, and the time, place, and purpose shall be advertised as aforesaid. Any person may, by way of appeal from the decision of the Department, file petition in the circuit court of the county, at any time until expiration of thirty days from the filing of an amended chart in said circuit court showing the reclassification, and the same proceedings shall be had thereon as are now provided in subsection (k) of this section and with the same rights of appeal from the decision of the circuit court. No lease of the reclassified area, in whole or part, shall be granted until the amended chart has been filed in the circuit court of the county and until thirty days shall have expired from date of filing. During said thirty-day period, public notice of the filing of an amended chart shall be given once a week for three successive weeks prior to expiration of said period, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1972.*

Approved May 5, 1972.

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CHAPTER 318

(House Bill 971)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 501A of Article 21 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), title "Talbot County," subtitle "Schools," as said section