

PRESERVATION, AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT;

(D) IT IS THE CONTINUING POLICY OF THE STATE TO COOPERATE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OTHER STATE GOVERNMENTS, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE, AND OTHER CONCERNED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, IN A MANNER CALCULATED TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT.

(E) THE DETERMINATION OF AN OPTIMUM BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ~~[(DESERVES)]~~ REQUIRES THE MOST THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION OF ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENTAL, RECREATIONAL, HISTORIC, ARCHITECTURAL, AESTHETIC, AND OTHER VALUES;

[(F)] BENEFICIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND MEASURES DEvised TO OBTAIN THESE BENEFITS IF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATIONS ARE MADE A PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES OF THE STATE;

[(F)] [(G)] ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL [(IMPACTS)] EFFECTS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS CAN BE ANTICIPATED, MINIMIZED, AND OFTEN ELIMINATED IF ENVIRONMENTAL [(IMPACT STATEMENTS ARE PREPARED EARLY IN AND ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERED THROUGH THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES OF THE STATE)] EVALUATIONS ARE MADE A PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES OF THE STATE;

[(G)] AN] [(H)] ENVIRONMENTAL [(IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS)] EFFECTS REPORTS CAN FACILITATE THE FULLEST PRACTICABLE PROVISION OF TIMELY PUBLIC INFORMATION, UNDERSTANDING, AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES OF THE STATE;

[(H)] [(I)] THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS AN OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND THE CONDUCT OF THE STATE AGENCIES IN CARRYING OUT THE POLICY SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE; AND

[(I)] [(J)] THE POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND PUBLIC LAWS OF THE STATE SHALL BE INTERPRETED AND ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE.

449. DEFINITIONS.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE, UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY THE CONTEXT:

(A) THE TERM "STATE AGENCIES" SHALL INCLUDE THE EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND OTHER UNITS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND ANY SUCH BODIES CREATED BY THE STATE; AND