

## CHAPTER 297

(House Bill 304)

AN ACT to add new Sections 674 I, J, and K to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Mining," to follow immediately after Section 674H thereof, and to be under the new subheading "Interstate Mining Compact," providing for the adoption of the Interstate Mining Compact, enacting the same into law, and generally relating thereto.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Sections 674 I, J, and K be and they are hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Mining," to follow immediately after Section 674H thereof, and to be under the new subheading "Interstate Mining Compact," and all to read as follows:

## INTERSTATE MINING COMPACT

674-I.

THE INTERSTATE MINING COMPACT IS HEREBY ENACTED INTO LAW AND ENTERED INTO WITH ALL OTHER JURISDICTIONS LEGALLY JOINING THEREIN IN THE FORM SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:

## ARTICLE I

## FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

## (A) THE PARTY STATES FIND THAT:

1. MINING AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEREOF TO THE ECONOMY AND WELL-BEING OF EVERY STATE ARE OF BASIC SIGNIFICANCE.

2. THE EFFECTS OF MINING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LAND, WATER AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR OTHER USES PRESENT SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH PROPERLY CAN BE APPROACHED ONLY WITH DUE CONSIDERATION FOR THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THOSE ENGAGED IN MINING, THOSE USING OR PROPOSING TO USE THESE RESOURCES FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND THE PUBLIC.

3. MEASURES FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF MINING ON LAND, WATER AND OTHER RESOURCES MAY BE COSTLY AND THE DEVISING OF MEANS TO DEAL WITH THEM ARE OF BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONCERN.

4. SUCH VARIABLES AS SOIL STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION, PHYSIOGRAPHY, CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, AND THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC MAKE IMPRACTICABLE THE APPLICATION TO ALL MINING AREAS OF A SINGLE STANDARD FOR THE CONSERVATION, ADAPTATION, OR RESTORATION OF MINED LAND, OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES; BUT JUSTIFIABLE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW AND PRACTICE RELATING TO THE EFFECTS OF MINING ON LAND, WATER, AND