

added to this and subsequent sections to identify submerged lands leased by the State as leased oyster bottoms.

Subsection (b) presently appears as Article 66C, section 710 of the Code. New language is added incorporating the relevant provisions of Article 66C, sections 709 and 710A. The present provision permitting lessees in Dorchester County to renew, assign, and devise by will is made applicable to the other two counties. No rational ground appears for treating these two counties differently; the department, in fact, has functioned on the assumption that these provisions did apply to the other two counties. House Bill 1158, Chapter 843, Acts of 1973 prohibit new leases in Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. These counties are included in the subsection and section 710B is proposed for deletion.

Subsection (c) presently appears as Article 66C, section 708(b) of the Code, as amended by Chapter 331, H.B. 974, Acts of 1973. The reference to "mean low water" is proposed for deletion and the synonymous phrase "mean low tide" is substituted therefor to maintain consistency. The present phrase "in the county" which identifies the location of natural oyster or clam bars, also is proposed for deletion. The decision in Bruce abolishes the necessity for the county water lines here. The last sentence is also proposed for deletion because the definition section of this subtitle sets forth the substance of this sentence. The reference to crab beds is proposed for deletion because crabs are not sedentary in nature and, thus, do not settle in beds.

Subsection (d) presently appears as Article 66C, section 708(h) of the Code. New language is added to indicate that the Chesapeake Bay as used in this subsection includes those waters lying outside the county water limits established by the Oyster Survey.