

## SUBTITLE 5. COASTAL FACILITIES REVIEW ACT

6-501.

[(A) MARYLAND'S COASTAL AREA, WHICH BORDERS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, IS RICH IN A VARIETY OF NATURAL, COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND ESTHETIC RESOURCES. THESE RESOURCES POSSESS GREAT IMMEDIATE AS WELL AS POTENTIAL VALUE FOR THE STATE AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, THE COASTAL AREA AND THE FISH, SHELLFISH, AND OTHER LIVING MARINE RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE CONTAINED THEREIN ARE ECOLOGICALLY FRAGILE. THEY CONSTITUTE A UNIQUE, IRREPLACEABLE, NATURAL, AND ESTHETIC RESOURCE OF GREAT ECONOMIC VALUE.

(B) EXTRACTION OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND FOSSIL FUELS FROM THE BALTIMORE CANYON TROUGH AND ELSEWHERE MAY CREATE IMMEDIATE, INCREASING, AND COMPETING DEMANDS UPON THE LANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE'S COASTAL AREA. THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE AND THE NATION REQUIRE A METHOD OF RESOLVING THESE COMPETING DEMANDS WHICH WILL GIVE A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE NATURAL SYSTEMS OF THE COASTAL ZONE AND PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.

(C) CERTAIN FACILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH EXTRACTION AND REFINING OF MINERAL AND FOSSIL FUEL RESOURCES MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE STATE'S INTEREST IF THEY ARE LOCATED IN THE COASTAL AREA. THE STATE, THEREFORE, REQUIRES A SYSTEM OF ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH FACILITIES, AS A LACK OF PROPER ASSESSMENT MAY CAUSE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE COASTAL AREA IF THESE FACILITIES ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE COASTAL AREA.

(D) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN OIL-RELATED FACILITIES IN THE COASTAL AREA HAS AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE RESIDING IN THE AREA WHERE THESE FACILITIES ARE ESTABLISHED. THEREFORE, LOCAL CONCERN IS PRIMARY IN MAKING DECISIONS AS TO LOCATION OF THESE FACILITIES. IF, HOWEVER, THE EXTENT OF OIL-RELATED FACILITIES CONTEMPLATED AFFECTS ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL FACTORS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE PARTICULAR SUBDIVISION INVOLVED, IN ADDITION TO INVOLVING POTENTIAL EXPENDITURE OF STATE FUNDS IN EXCESS OF TAX REVENUES DERIVED FROM THE FACILITIES, THEN THE STATE INTEREST AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST BECOME A FACTOR IN THE CONSIDERATION OF WHERE THESE OIL-RELATED FACILITIES SHALL BE LOCATED.

(E) THE FOREGOING SUBSECTIONS CONSTITUTE THE FINDINGS AND INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ENACTING PROVISIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE STATE REVIEW PRIOR TO