

later than February 1, 1977; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Approved April 13, 1976.

No. 20

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 65)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Garrett County - Department of Natural Resources
Land Ownership

FOR the purpose of requesting the Secretary of Natural Resources to conduct a study of the Department's land ownership in Garrett County for certain evaluation purposes and for certain consolidation purposes; providing for a report to be made on a certain date and generally relating to the Department of Natural Resources and land ownership in Garrett County.

WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources administers 76,243 acres in Garrett County, comprising 18 percent of that County's land area; and

WHEREAS, These lands are contained in 11 administrative areas including 3 State Forests, 6 State Parks, 1 Wildlife Management Area, and 1 Fisheries Management Area; and

WHEREAS, Present authorization is for expansion of these areas by 12,411 acres, which would bring the total acreage to 88,654 acres comprising 21 percent of the County; and

WHEREAS, Much of this land was transferred to the State by the Federal Government, which had acquired the land during the Depression to assist impoverished landowners; and

WHEREAS, As a result, the Department of Natural Resources lands do not always comprise logical management units, having irregular boundaries, isolated parcels, private inholdings, and limited access; and

WHEREAS, This disjointed ownership increases management costs and problems, and limits public use and enjoyment of these lands; and