

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources  
 Section 7-901 through 7-909 to be under the new  
 subtitle "Subtitle 9. Abandoned Mine  
 Reclamation"  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (1974 Volume and 1978 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

SUBTITLE 9. ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION

7-901.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "BOARD" MEANS BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

(C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

(D) "LAND" MEANS REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WATER, RIPARIAN OR OTHER VESTED RIGHTS, EASEMENTS, PRIVILEGES, AND ANY OTHER ESTATE OR INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY.

7-902.

IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROMOTE THE RECLAMATION OF MINED AREAS LEFT WITHOUT ADEQUATE RECLAMATION WHICH CONTINUE TO DEGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PREVENT OR DAMAGE THE BENEFICIAL USE OF LAND OR WATER RESOURCES, OR ENDANGER USE OF LAND OR WATER RESOURCES, OR ENDANGER THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC. TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES, THE DEPARTMENT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER AN ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROGRAM CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT.

7-903.

ANY FUNDS THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES PURSUANT TO TITLE IV OF THE FEDERAL SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1977 SHALL BE DEPOSITED TO THE CREDIT OF THE STATE TREASURER. THESE FUNDS, TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN A SPECIAL FUND ON THE BOOKS OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY IN AN ACCOUNT KNOWN AS THE "FEDERAL-STATE RECLAMATION FUND." THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE THE FUNDS TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH