

CHAPTER 764

(House Bill 854)

AN ACT concerning

Water Resources - Public Policy

FOR the purpose of establishing a policy of the State that ~~wastes--and--wastewaters--be--confined--and--contained--to--prevent--contamination--of--State--waters,~~ will provide and promote, through innovative and alternative methods of waste and wastewater treatment, prevention, abatement, and control of new or existing water pollution.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section ~~8-801(a)~~ and 8-1402
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1979 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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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

8-801.

~~(a) In order to conserve, protect, and use water resources of the state in accordance with the best interests of the people of Maryland, it is the policy of the state to control, so far as feasible, appropriation or use of surface and underground waters of the state AND TO REQUIRE THAT WASTES--AND--WASTEWATERS--BE--CONFINED--AND--CONTAINED--TO--PREVENT--THE--CONTAMINATION--OF--STATE--WATERS. Also, it is state policy to promote public safety and welfare, and control and supervise so far as is feasible, construction, reconstruction, and repair of dams, reservoirs, and other waterworks in any waters of the state.~~

8-1402.

Because the quality of the waters of this State is vital to the public and private interests of its citizens and because pollution constitutes a menace to public health and welfare, creates public nuisances, is harmful to wildlife, fish and aquatic life, and impairs domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and other legitimate beneficial uses of water, and the problem of water pollution in this State is closely related to the problem of water pollution in adjoining states, it is State public policy to improve, conserve, and manage the quality of the waters of the State and protect, maintain, and improve the quality of water for public supplies, propagation of wildlife, fish and