

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 aquatic life, and domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and other legitimate beneficial uses. Also, it is State public policy to provide that no waste is discharged into any waters of this State without first receiving necessary treatment or other corrective action to protect the legitimate beneficial uses of this State's waters, and provide for prevention, abatement, and control of new or existing water pollution. The [Department] DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE shall cooperate with the agencies of other states and the federal government in carrying out these objectives.

8-1404. [Joint powers and duties of Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Department of Natural Resources.] ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARIZING WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM.

[(a) Part of comprehensive water pollution control program. -- As part of a comprehensive water pollution control program, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Natural Resources jointly shall have and exercise the powers and duties stated in this section.]

[(b) Annual joint report summarizing water pollution control program. --] The [Departments] DEPARTMENT of Health and Mental Hygiene [and Natural Resources] shall submit [a joint] AN annual report to the Governor and General Assembly not later than June 1, in each year, which summarizes the water pollution control program for the State. The report shall include:

[(1)] (A) The status of comprehensive county water supply and sewerage plans developed in compliance with Article 43, § 387C of the Code;

[(2)] (B) The status of implementation programs to achieve water quality standards for the State. Outstanding violations and the status of correction shall be included;

[(3)] (C) The status of interstate compacts and programs of interstate agencies;