

passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of passage.

Approved April 22, 1980.

CHAPTER 173

(House Bill 663)

AN ACT concerning

Tree Cutting - Private Property

FOR the purpose of requiring persons to obtain the written permission of an owner before cutting or damaging certain trees; providing certain exceptions from certain requirements of this Act; increasing the amount of certain damages recoverable; and requiring that the written permission be displayed at the request of law enforcement officers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 5-409
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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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

5-409.

(A) Any person, his aiders, abettors, and counsellors, who willfully, negligently, recklessly, wrongfully, or maliciously enters upon lands or premises of another without WRITTEN permission of the owner of the lands or premises, in order to cut, burn, or otherwise injure or destroy, or cause to be cut, burned, or otherwise injured, or destroyed, any merchantable trees or timber on the land is liable to the party injured or aggrieved in an amount ~~double~~ TRIPLE the value of the trees or timber cut, burned, or otherwise injured or destroyed. The damages are recoverable in a civil action, as in any other case.

(B) AT THE REQUEST OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, A PERSON ON THE LANDS AND PREMISES OF ANOTHER ENGAGED IN ANY ACT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DISPLAY THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE OWNER.