

## CHAPTER 386

(House Bill 668)

AN ACT concerning

## Strip Mining of Coal

FOR the purpose of requiring that an operator rather than the Department publish notice of the release of a bond for a permitted strip mine; authorizing the Department to enter on private property for purposes of access to any open-pit mining or prospecting operation, subject to certain notice to property owners and subject to judicial order where necessary; requiring that the Bureau of Mines shall reimburse a property owner for any damages resulting from such entry on private property; authorizing the Department to extend beyond 90 days the abatement scheduled for a strip mining violation; altering requirements concerning prospecting for coal to provide for written approval of the Bureau only where prospecting will result in substantial disturbance to the land or harm to water supplies or water quality, subject to certain bond requirements, to place a certain limit on the amount of coal which may be removed during prospecting, to establish certain procedures where written approval is necessary, and to protect trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information submitted by a prospector; making a technical correction to provide that the Department is authorized to place a lien on all abandoned mine reclamation projects conducted under Title 7, Subtitle 9 of the Natural Resources Article and is precluded from placing a lien on such projects under certain conditions; and generally relating to regulatory requirements for the strip mining of coal and reclamation of abandoned mining areas.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources  
Section 7-506(h), 7-507(c), and 7-907(b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1974 Volume and 1982 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article - Natural Resources  
Section 7-514.6  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1974 Volume and 1982 Supplement)

BY adding to