

Sewage Sludge - Dumping in the Chesapeake Bay

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from dumping, depositing, scattering, or releasing sewage sludge by certain means into or onto certain areas of the Chesapeake Bay; defining certain terms; revising a certain legislative purpose; generally relating to dumping sewage sludge in the Chesapeake Bay; and making this Act an emergency measure.

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources
Section 8-1601(a)(5) and 8-1602(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1982 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 8-1601(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1982 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

8-1601.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(5) (I) "SEWAGE SLUDGE" MEANS THE ACCUMULATED SEMILIQUID SUSPENSION OF SETTLED SOLIDS, OR DRIED RESIDUE OF THESE SOLIDS, THAT IS DEPOSITED FROM SEWAGE IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TANKS OR BASINS.

(II) "SEWAGE SLUDGE" INCLUDES THE RAW UNTREATED SEWAGE DISPOSED FROM THE BACK RIVER SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

(b) The General Assembly declares that the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (within the tidewater portions thereof) are a great natural asset and resource to the State and its counties. Portions of these areas are threatened with inundation by the unconfined dumping of vast quantities of spoil from dredging operations within Baltimore Harbor AND CERTAIN DUMPINGS OF SEWAGE SLUDGE. This inundation and unconfined dumping will pollute and despoil valuable portions of the bottomland in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidewater tributaries and be grossly harmful to fish and marine life in these and adjacent waters, to use for recreation, and to the economic and social life of the people of this State.