

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

House Bill No. 1250

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Nonnative Oysters – Introduction

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from introducing a nonnative oyster into State waters without a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources; restricting the Department from introducing a nonnative oyster into State waters or from issuing a permit to another person for an introduction unless certain conditions are met; requiring the Department to satisfy certain conditions before introducing a nonnative oyster into State waters or before issuing a permit to another person for an introduction; providing for certain criminal and civil penalties for certain persons who violate this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the introduction of a nonnative oyster into State waters.

BY renumbering

Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–1008
to be Section 4–1008.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–1008
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, In this region and across the entire continent, the Chesapeake Bay is considered a unique and invaluable natural, historic, cultural, and recreational treasure; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland economy and that of the entire region depend on a balanced and healthy Bay ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, The continued ecological and economic productivity of the Bay depends upon sound, science-based management decisions; and

WHEREAS, Various government resource management agencies are now considering the introduction of a nonnative oyster species, *Crassostrea ariakensis*,