

requiring the Board to approve or deny an application within a certain period of time; requiring the Board to certify certain producers as eligible for the production credits; establishing certain limits on the amount of production credits the Board may certify per producer and the total amount of production credits the Board may certify; authorizing an increase or reduction in production credits for a producer under certain circumstances; prohibiting the Board from paying production credits after a certain date; establishing a claims process to provide for production credit payments to producers; requiring a claim for a production credit payment to include certain information; providing that an application or a claim is not subject to public disclosure; providing for certain funding to implement the production credits; defining certain terms; and generally relating to production credits for certain ethanol and biodiesel products.

BY adding to

Article – Agriculture

Section 10–1501 through 10–1507, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
“Subtitle 15. Production Credits for Renewable Fuels”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 10–616(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – State Government

Section 10–616(t)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The United States imports more than 62% of its oil and this percentage is expected to grow to more than 77% by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, The use and production of clean burning, domestically produced renewable fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, will reduce the United States' dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, Ethanol production has doubled nationally in the last ten years, to a level where 84 plants in 20 states have a capacity to produce 3.4 billion gallons annually, mostly in states that have offered production credits and other incentives; and