

acquire land in Garrett County; authorizing the Department to use funds to exchange land in Garrett County under certain conditions; and generally relating to the Heritage Conservation Fund.

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources

Section 5-1501 through 5-1506 5-1507, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 15. Heritage Conservation Fund"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1983 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

~~BY-repealing-and-reenacting, with-amendments,~~

~~Article---Tax---Property~~

~~Section-13-209~~

~~Annotated-Code-of-Maryland~~

~~(1986-Volume)~~

#### Preamble

Population growth and dispersal and related residential commercial and industrial development continue to claim thousands of acres of forest and farmland as well as nontidal wetlands and other unique ecological areas of Maryland. From 1973 to 1981, 37,000 acres of forestland, 43,000 acres of farmland, and 14,000 acres of nontidal wetlands have been lost in Maryland. The General Assembly of Maryland finds that the protection of these land resources is essential to the efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay and to assure that our natural heritage will be protected for future generations.

The General Assembly further finds that the protection of Maryland's forest resources is essential to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the protection of water quality throughout Maryland. One of this Act's priorities shall be the protection of these forest resources.

The General Assembly finds that the establishment of a Heritage Conservation Fund is necessary to protect the natural heritage of Maryland; now, therefore,

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

Article - Natural Resources

SUBTITLE 15. HERITAGE CONSERVATION FUND

5-1501.