

(b) The Department shall inspect, read, or test any meters, through which natural gas is being measured upon the request of any lessor, lessee, operator, or royalty owner from whose land, lease, or royalty interest, natural gas is being produced.

6-114.

Any person who willfully violates any provision of this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for each offense with costs imposed in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1988.

Approved May 27, 1988.

CHAPTER 778

(House Bill 297)

AN ACT concerning

Oil and Gas - Chesapeake Bay, Its Tributaries,
and Other State Waters
Leasing of Areas Beneath State Lands and Waters

FOR the purpose of requiring the Board of Public Works at certain times to select the Secretary of Natural Resources to prepare certain statements of the environmental, fiscal, and economic impact of a proposed lease in certain State waters; providing for the preparation, filing, public inspection, and content of those impact statements; prohibiting the Board of Public Works from issuing a lease in certain State waters under certain conditions; requiring certain approval by the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission before granting a lease under this Act; requiring an applicant for a lease in certain State waters to adhere to certain criteria and permit conditions; providing for inspections of certain facilities; authorizing the Board of Public Works to lease certain areas beneath lands or waters of the State for certain purposes; authorizing the Board of Public Works to adopt certain regulations concerning award of certain leases, nomination of certain areas of the State for possible leasing for oil and gas production or reserve, prohibition against leasing certain areas for oil and gas production and reserve, and recovery of certain costs from certain persons; requiring the Board of Public Works, after