

CHAPTER 502

(Senate Bill 624)

AN ACT concerning

Vessels on Waters of the State – Noise Levels

FOR the purpose of broadening the applicability provisions of law prohibiting the operation of vessels on the tidal waters of the State in excess of ~~a~~ certain noise level levels by expanding the prohibition to include vessels operating on any waters of the State; authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to adopt regulations that would permit exceptions to the noise level requirements for certain vessels owned by certain persons; and generally relating to prohibitions on the operation of vessels at ~~a~~ certain noise level levels on certain waters of the State.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – Natural Resources
Section 8-725.4(d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1990 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources
Section 8-725.4(b) ~~and (e), (c), and (d)~~
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1990 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

8-725.4.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a person may not operate a vessel on ~~the tidal~~ ~~ANY~~ waters of the State so as to exceed a noise level of 75db(a), measured from a point on shore using generally accepted testing procedures imposed by regulations adopted by the Department based on the Marine Environment Sound Level Measurement Procedure, SAE J 1970.

(2) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE A VESSEL ON THE NONTIDAL WATERS OF THE STATE SO AS TO EXCEED THE FOLLOWING NOISE LEVELS:

1. FOR ENGINES MANUFACTURED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1993, A NOISE LEVEL OF 90DB(A); OR

2. FOR ENGINES MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1993, A NOISE LEVEL OF 88DB(A).