

CHAPTER 501

(House Bill 848)

AN ACT concerning

Operation of Boats – Noise Levels – All State Waters

FOR the purpose of establishing noise level requirements for the operation of vessels on all waters of the State by eliminating the provisions limiting statutory noise levels only to the nontidal waters of the State; eliminating a certain noise level as measured in a certain manner; making the maximum noise level limit the same regardless of the date certain engines are manufactured; requiring that noise levels on all waters of the State be measured in a certain manner; and generally relating to statutory noise levels on the waters of the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 8-725.4

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 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.

(a) The provisions of this section do not apply to persons who regularly catch or harvest seafood for sale while actually engaged in the catching or harvesting of the seafood.

(b) (1) [Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a person may not operate a vessel on the tidal 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) (i) [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.] (I) For engines manufactured before January 1, 1993, a noise level of 90dB(a); or,~~

~~[2.] (II) For engines manufactured on or after January 1, 1993, a noise level of 88dB(a).~~