

(1996 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Estates and Trusts

Section 3-105

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 5-207

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The State owns and manages over 400,000 acres of State forests and parks; and~~

WHEREAS, Small, isolated tracts of land that are not owned by the State are located entirely within and adjacent to ~~the State forest and parks, particularly Green Ridge State Forest;~~ and

WHEREAS, The owners of the tracts of land are unknown, the title to the tracts of land is uncertain, and no person has actually been in possession of the tracts of land, under claim of title or otherwise, for a continuous period of 20 years; and

WHEREAS, The presence of small, isolated, private tracts of land within ~~a State forest or park~~ Green Ridge State Forest makes it difficult for the State to manage the entire forest as a whole for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to return the isolated tracts of land to public use and at the same time to preserve the rights of the actual owners of the tracts of land in the event that such unknown owners subsequently come forward to claim title to the tracts of land; now, therefore,

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

Article - Real Property

13-101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated unless otherwise apparent from context.

(b) "Certificate of reservation" means a certificate issued by the Commissioner at the request of a governmental body upon a determination that vacant land OR ABANDONED LAND exists and the governmental body wishes to reserve the land for public use.