

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

Article - Natural Resources

5-1605.

(d) Within 45 days from receipt of the forest conservation plan, the Department or local authority shall notify the applicant whether the forest conservation plan is complete [and approved]. If the Department or local authority fails to notify the applicant about the forest conservation plan within 45 days, the plan shall be treated as complete and approved. The Department or local authority may require further information or provide for an extension of this deadline for an additional 15 days for extenuating circumstances. In addition, at the request of the applicant, the State or local authority may extend this deadline for extenuating circumstances.

5-1607.

(e) (1) As part of the development of a forest conservation program, [a] THE STATE OR local government shall develop provisions for:

(i) Preservation of areas described in subsections (c) and (d)(1) and (3) of this section;

(ii) Retention as forest of all land forested, afforested, or reforested under this subtitle; and

(iii) Limitation of uses of forest to those that are not inconsistent with forest conservation, such as recreational activities and forest management under subsection (f) of this section.

(2) The provisions required in paragraph (1) of this subsection may include protective agreements for areas of forest conservation, including conservation easements, deed restrictions, and covenants.

5-1610.

(c) Money collected by the State or a local authority under § 5-1608(c) OR § 5-1612 of this subtitle for noncompliance with this subtitle or regulations adopted under this subtitle, or for noncompliance with a forest conservation plan or the associated 2-year management agreement shall be deposited in the Forest Conservation Fund.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved April 25, 2002.