

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Approved April 27, 2004.

CHAPTER 86

(Senate Bill 61)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Natural Resources - Vessel Operation - Regulations

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to adopt regulations relating to the operation of vessels so that each vessel of a type or size may be operated with equal freedom or under similar circumstances as other vessels of that type or size; and generally relating to the adoption of regulations relating to the operation of vessels.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 8-704

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

Article - Natural Resources

8-704.

(a) The Department may adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

(b) In order to protect the public safety, welfare, and recreational interests in waters of the State, the Department may adopt a program relating to the placement of buoys, mooring buoys, and other apparatus used to secure, berth, or moor vessels in the waters of the State. The Department shall consult with any county affected by the program.

(b-1) The Department shall adopt regulations governing the following:

(1) The numbering of vessels for identification, safety equipment on vessels, and operations of any vessels subject to this subtitle so that each vessel OF A TYPE OR SIZE complying with the regulations may be operated with equal freedom or under similar requirements AS OTHER VESSELS OF THAT TYPE OR SIZE on all waters of the State. The numbering system used shall conform to the one adopted by the federal government. These regulations may not conflict with any federal law or regulation applicable to vessels on the waters in the State;