

Natural Resources - Chesapeake Bay - Oyster Restoration

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to lease land under certain waters of the Chesapeake Bay for oyster restoration; requiring the Department to adopt regulations and condition the leases to require a holder of certain oyster bottom to plant a certain minimum amount of seed oyster on certain surfaces within a certain time frame; authorizing the Department to extend the time frame for planting oyster seed on certain leased oyster bottom under certain circumstances; authorizing a holder of certain leased oyster bottom to catch oysters for certain purposes; establishing that a holder of certain leased oyster bottom may only restore a certain species of oyster; establishing that certain penalties apply for certain unlawful taking of oysters; establishing that certain penalties apply for unlawfully taking oysters in certain areas; altering a certain element of the criminal offense of unlawfully taking oysters; altering the range of time for a tidal fish license suspension that applies to a person who unlawfully takes oysters; establishing a certain additional penalty for a violation of certain time restrictions on catching or landing oysters; requiring the Department to impose certain license suspensions in a certain manner; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; establishing the Task Force on Oyster Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay; providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to appoint the chair of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to examine certain issues related to oysters in the Chesapeake Bay and to formulate a certain action plan; providing for reimbursement for the expenses of a member of the Task Force; providing that certain provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law do not apply under certain circumstances to certain regulated lobbyists who serve on the Task Force; providing for the staff of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; making certain technical corrections; making certain stylistic changes; altering a certain definition~~ establishing the Oyster Advisory Commission in the Department of Natural Resources; providing for the membership of the Commission; establishing the duties of the Commission; requiring the Commission to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to publish certain information with respect to areas closed to shellfish harvesting; requiring the Department to provide certain publications to certain persons under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from catching oysters for sale without providing certain certification to the Department; authorizing certain organizations to lease certain submerged land in Anne Arundel County for oyster restoration; authorizing certain holders of certain oyster bottom leases to renew the leases; requiring a certain holder of an oyster bottom lease to adhere to a certain plan and to plant a certain amount and density of oyster seed; prohibiting a certain holder of an oyster bottom lease from transferring or