

attempting to transfer a certain interest in submerged land; providing for reversion of a lease to the State if a certain transfer is made or attempted; establishing that certain penalties apply for unlawfully taking oysters in certain areas; repealing the penalty of license suspension for certain unlawful takings of oysters; requiring a certain amount of the oyster seed or spat produced at a certain laboratory to be made available to certain leaseholders for purchase; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations establishing a certain administrative process for license suspension or revocation for unlawfully taking oysters; providing for the effective dates of this Act; and generally relating to oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section ~~4-11A-05(a)(1), (b), and (f)(1) and (2), 4-11A-07, 4-11A-11, 4-11A-12(a), 4-11A-13(a), (b), and (c)(1), 4-204(c), 4-701(e)(2), 4-11A-05(a)(2), and 4-1201(f)~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section ~~4-1201(g)~~ 4-1006.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

~~4-11A-05.~~

~~(a) (1) (I) The Department may lease, in the name of the State, tracts or parcels of land beneath the waters of the State to residents of the State for protecting, coving, bedding, or cultivating oysters or other shellfish, subject to the provisions of this [section] SUBTITLE.~~

~~(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY LEASE, IN THE NAME OF THE STATE, TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND BENEATH THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES TO RESIDENTS OF THE STATE FOR OYSTER RESTORATION, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~(III) These submerged lands when leased shall be known as leased oyster bottoms.~~