

WHEREAS, Maryland's commercial watermen and seafood packers provide a valuable service as providers of quality seafood to the public, bearers of an invaluable cultural and traditional way of life, stewards of the environment, and contributors to the future growth of heritage and ecotourism; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes specific measures must be taken to ensure the viability of Maryland's seafood industry communities, the supporting economies, and associated livelihoods and traditions; and

WHEREAS, The State must protect and preserve the commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that development pressures increasingly eliminate commercial working waterfront and jeopardize the viability of the commercial seafood industry; and

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake and Atlantic coastal waters provide a resource of great importance to Maryland and its citizens and make a significant contribution to the economic well-being of the State; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

- (a) There is a Working Waterfront Commission.
- (b) The Commission consists of the following members:
  - (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
  - (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
  - (3) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
  - (4) the Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
  - (5) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;
  - (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or the Executive Director's designee;
  - (7) the Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or the Executive Director's designee;