

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1991.

Approved April 30, 1991.

CHAPTER 255

(Senate Bill 224)

AN ACT concerning

Forest Conservation

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain development projects from cutting or clearing certain forests unless a Forest Stand Delineation and a Forest Conservation Plan is in effect; defining certain terms; providing certain exceptions to the application of this Act; requiring certain local governments to establish and implement local forest conservation programs; establishing certain requirements for local forest conservation programs; providing for administration of local programs by the Department of Natural Resources in the absence of a local program; incorporating certain forest conservation considerations for certain Public Service Commission licenses; providing for the Department's biennial review of local programs and for administration of deficient local programs; requiring certain persons to submit a Forest Stand Delineation Plan and a Forest Conservation Plan to the jurisdiction administering the Forest Conservation Program; providing certain deadlines for certain approvals of forest stand delineations and forest conservation plans; establishing the forest conservation, reforestation, and afforestation requirements for certain land use categories; authorizing certain credit against certain reforestation requirements; requiring certain afforestation and reforestation activities to be conducted within a certain time; providing for the assessment of certain afforestation and reforestation fees under certain circumstances and within certain times; establishing certain performance standards and priorities of Forest Conservation Plans; providing for certain management agreements; providing that there shall be an approved forest conservation plan before the approval of the final subdivision plan or the issuance of any ~~grading, grading or~~ sediment control, ~~or building~~ permit; providing for the assessment of a penalty for noncompliance; providing for the creation of a State or local forest conservation fund; establishing enforcement provisions for the Department and local authorities to ~~insure~~ ensure compliance with ~~this subtitle~~; the provisions of this Act; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations by a certain time and in consultation with certain persons; requiring certain annual reporting on the status of certain funds and programs; providing for certain alternative provisions in the event of the enactment of the "Maryland Growth Management and Chesapeake Protection Act"; altering the amount of money that a constructing agency is required to pay into a certain Reforestation Fund under certain circumstances and for certain construction activities; altering the requirements for the location of certain reforestation projects; providing a delayed effective date for certain provisions of this Act; exempting certain subdivision and resubdivision