

Article - Natural Resources

8-1002.

The Department shall:

(4) Design or cause to be designed shore erosion control [structures] PROJECTS, including vegetative cover, in shore erosion control districts;

(5) Enter into agreements with any person to construct shore erosion control [structures] PROJECTS;

(6) Administer the Fund to provide loans to any person in support of construction of shore erosion control [structures] PROJECTS;

8-1005.

(a) (1) There is a "Shore Erosion Control Construction Loan Fund." The Department shall administer the Fund to provide interest-free loans to persons, municipalities, or counties for design and construction of shore erosion [structures] CONTROL PROJECTS. The Fund shall be maintained by:

(i) Repayments of principal on loans made from the Fund, with the repayments made through a benefit charge the State levies on privately owned property benefited by shore erosion control projects. The benefit charge shall compensate the State for net project construction cost. The benefit charge shall be levied at a uniform rate over a period not exceeding 25 years;

(ii) Repayment of administrative costs under § 8-1004 of this subtitle; and

(iii) Annual appropriation of general funds to restore the Fund to a level sufficient to carry out an effective shore erosion control construction loan program during the succeeding year.

(2) A property owner whose project is approved is eligible to receive an interest-free loan covering 100% of the first \$60,000 of project construction cost, 50% of the next \$20,000 of project construction cost, 25% of the next \$20,000 of project construction cost, and 10% of the part of construction cost exceeding \$100,000. However, where 2 or more property owners are included within a shore erosion control project, the land of each property owner is considered a separate shore erosion project for the purpose of computing net project construction cost under this formula.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1998.

Approved April 28, 1998.