

Title 8, Subtitle 21 of the Natural Resources Article] THE CREATION, RESTORATION, OR ENHANCEMENT OF TIDAL WETLANDS, INCLUDING:

- (1) ACQUISITION OF LAND OR EASEMENTS;
- (2) MAINTENANCE OF MITIGATION SITES;
- (3) PURCHASE OF CREDITS IN MITIGATION BANKS;
- (4) MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE OR NUISANCE SPECIES IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
- (5) COST SHARING ASSISTANCE TO LANDOWNERS IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PHRAGMITES UNDER TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 21 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE; AND
- (6) CONTRACTUAL SERVICES NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE INTENT OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(e) Funds [appropriated in the budget for wetlands acquisition and conservation under this section] CREDITED AND ANY INTEREST ACCRUED TO THE FUND:

- (1) Shall remain available until expended; and
- (2) May not [be reverted] REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND under any other provision of law.

(F) ALL MONETARY COMPENSATION PAID TO THE STATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH A WETLANDS LICENSE OTHER THAN THAT SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-203.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of the Environment shall:

(a) (1) In conjunction with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and any other federal and State agencies involved in the joint permitting process, review the current wetlands and waterways joint permitting process and develop an action plan with recommendations for improvement in the joint process to meet the goals and deadlines under § 5-906(j) of the Environment Article more effectively and promptly, including an assessment of any gaps that may exist in