

CHAPTER 104

(House Bill 972)

AN ACT concerning

Forest Conservation - Reporting and Enforcement

FOR the purpose of requiring certain local authorities to report certain enforcement activity to the Department of Natural Resources within a certain period of time; requiring the Department to include certain information regarding certain enforcement activity in certain annual reports; and generally relating to enforcement of State and local forest conservation laws.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 5-1612 and 5-1613

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article - Natural Resources

5-1612.

(a) (1) The enforcement provisions in this section and § 5-1608 of this subtitle are in lieu of any other provision in this title.

(2) In addition to the enforcement authority granted the Department, the enforcement provisions of this section may be exercised by any local authority that has adopted a forest conservation program, in addition to any enforcement provisions available to the local authority.

(b) The Department or a local authority may revoke an approved forest conservation plan for cause, including violation of conditions of the plan, obtaining a plan approval by misrepresentation, failing to disclose a relevant or material fact, or change in conditions. The Department or a local authority shall notify the violator in writing and provide an opportunity for a hearing.

(c) The Department or a local authority may issue a stop work order against any person who violates any provision of this subtitle or any regulation, order, approved plan, or management agreement.