

SEC. 3 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all laws or parts of laws, public general or public local, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

SEC. 4 5. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect on July 1, 1963.

Approved April 30, 1963.

CHAPTER 618

(House Bill 494)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 659 and 665(b) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1962 Supplement) title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Mining," subheading "Strip Mining," to change the amount of bond required to be posted by strip mining operators in Garrett County, and to prevent construction of ponds in lieu of backfilling in Garrett County AND PROVIDING THAT NO OPERATOR WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY DEFAULTED ON PAYMENT OF LABOR, ROYALTIES OR BOND SHALL BE PERMITTED TO STRIP MINE IN MARYLAND.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 659 and 665(b) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1962 Supplement) title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Mining," subheading "Strip Mining," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

659.

Before any operator shall hereafter engage in open pit mining of bituminous coal within the State, he shall register with the Bureau of Mines of this State by filing a certificate on a form to be provided by the Bureau, and giving information sufficient to identify the operator and the area his operations will affect. Contemporaneously with and as a part of said registration, the operator shall file with the Bureau of Mines a bond on a form to be prescribed and furnished by the Bureau, payable to the State and conditioned that the operator shall faithfully perform all of the requirements of this subheading. The bond shall be in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per acre, *except in Garrett County where the amount of the bond shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.) per acre,* based upon the number of acres of coal which the operator estimates will be stripped by open pit mining, provided, that no bond shall be for less than one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00), *except in Garrett County where the bond shall be for not less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).* NO OPERATOR SHALL BE PERMITTED TO STRIP ANY AREA IN THIS STATE BY OPEN PIT MINING WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY FORFEITED ANY BOND POSTED PURSUANT TO STRIPPING ACTIVITIES OR WHO HAS FAILED TO PAY ROYALTIES OR WAGES DUE DURING SUCH ACTIVITIES. During the stripping operation under any such permit the operator shall backfill so that the total area of land affected does