

CHAPTER 268

(Senate Bill 174)

AN ACT concerning

Rules of Interpretation - Meaning of "May Not"

FOR the purpose of clarifying that, in the Annotated Code of Maryland and any rule, regulation, or directive adopted under it, the phrase "may not" or phrases of like import are intended to have a mandatory negative effect and establish a prohibition.

BY adding to

Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation
Section 26
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1968 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 26 be and it is hereby added to Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation

26.

IN THIS CODE AND ANY RULE, REGULATION, OR DIRECTIVE ADOPTED UNDER IT, THE PHRASE "MAY NOT" OR PHRASES OF LIKE IMPORT HAVE A MANDATORY NEGATIVE EFFECT AND ESTABLISH A PROHIBITION.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language added to clarify expressly the identity of meaning of "may not", particularly as it has become standard usage in the unnumbered revised articles of the Code, or other phrases of similar import (e.g., "may never" or "no person may") with phrases such as "shall not" or, in appropriate cases, "it is unlawful".

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Revisor's Note contained in this Act is not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1976.

Approved May 4, 1976.
