

WHEREAS, There are presently overlapping environmental regulatory functions assigned to the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

WHEREAS, The consolidation of regulatory programs for water pollution control, air and water quality control, and hazardous and solid waste management ~~will~~ is intended to strengthen the State's environmental enforcement capability; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of this cabinet agency is intended to assist and expedite the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and her tributaries and to enhance the State's efforts to improve air quality, water quality, and the prevention of pollution from hazardous and solid waste; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that sediment control and stormwater management programs are important to water quality and restoring the Chesapeake Bay to its former, more productive condition and, therefore, should be given special consideration within the Department of the Environment; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly by enactment of this legislation, to improve enforcement of environmental laws and regulations in Maryland, in order to protect human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The creation of a single cabinet level agency for environmental protection will more efficiently and effectively interchange with federal, county, municipal, and local counterparts; and

WHEREAS, The creation of this new agency department will assist local governments to perform their significant environmental and public health roles; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the State to clearly define and--streamline departmental responsibilities for public health, natural resources, and environmental protection; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Article - Health - Environmental of the Annotated Code of Maryland be and it is hereby renamed to be Article - Environment.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Title 4. Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics; Title 5. Poisons and Child Resistant Packaging of Dangerous Household Substances; and Title 11. Miscellaneous Provisions, respectively, of Article - Health - Environmental of the Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred and renumbered without amendments to be Title 21. Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics; Title 22. Poisons and Child Resistant Packaging