

CHAPTER 777

(House Bill 296)

AN ACT concerning

Oil and Gas - Exploration, Drilling, and Storage - Generally

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to require certain environmental studies in connection with an application for a permit to drill oil or gas wells; providing for notice and an opportunity for a hearing if the Department of Natural Resources receives an application for a permit to drill certain oil or gas wells in the State; providing a certain exception to the general notice and hearing requirements; prohibiting a person from obtaining certain permits for oil or gas wells or exploration in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area unless certain conditions are met; requiring the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Commission to adopt certain regulations relating to oil or natural gas drilling in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area; providing for administrative and judicial review of certain actions of the Department; altering the amounts of performance bonds for holders of a permit to drill for oil or gas; requiring liability insurance coverage in certain amounts for holders of a permit to drill for oil or gas; allowing the Department to adopt certain regulations under this Act; providing certain ways to post a performance bond and to provide for self-insurance under this Act; clarifying which units of State government need to issue a permit for the disposal of any product of an oil or gas well; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to hearings, appeals, bonding, and liability insurance for the exploration, drilling, production operations, or plugging of oil or gas wells.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 6-101, 6-103, 6-106, 6-107, 6-108, 6-110, 6-112, and
6-114

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources
Section 6-102, 6-104, 6-105, 6-109, 6-111, and 6-113
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)