

System for State participants to the accumulation funds of the Employees' Retirement System and the Employees' Pension System for participating governmental unit participants.

SECTION 2, 3, AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

Approved May 22, 1997.

CHAPTER 741

(House Bill 1350)

AN ACT concerning

~~Citizens~~ Advisory Council on Environmental Justice

FOR the purpose of establishing a ~~Citizens~~ an Advisory Council on Environmental Justice; establishing the membership, duties, purposes, and staffing of the Advisory Council; requiring the Advisory Council to ~~develop a draft State Policy~~ issue a report on Environmental Justice; requiring the Advisory Council to make a report to certain persons by a certain date; providing for the effective date and termination of this Act; and generally relating to the ~~Citizens~~ Advisory Council on Environmental Justice.

BY adding to

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
Section 18-313
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1997 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the importance of equal protection of the citizens of the State with regard to State action protecting the public health, welfare, and environment; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Historical decisions on land use and siting of industrial development and its byproducts have placed an inordinate burden of environmental degradation on communities disadvantaged by ethnic background, low income, and ignorance; and~~

~~WHEREAS, These decisions are perpetuated based on the current environmental and economic conditions of these communities, giving rise to issues of environmental justice; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has made significant efforts to support the redevelopment of brownfields areas, in order to clean up the degraded environment of affected communities and to provide new economic opportunities in those communities while preserving pristine areas from sprawl and pollution; and~~