

Chapter 380

(House Bill 58)

AN ACT concerning

Talbot County – Chesapeake Bay Critical Area – Prosecution or Civil Suit for Certain Violations

FOR the purpose of requiring a criminal prosecution or a suit for a civil penalty for ~~a certain offense~~ certain offenses occurring in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area in Talbot County to be brought within a certain number of years after ~~the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays or~~ the local authorities in fact knew or reasonably should have known of a certain violation; providing for the application of a certain exception in certain instances; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to prosecutions and civil suits for certain offenses occurring in Talbot County.

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~without~~ with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 5–106(a) and 5–107
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 5–106(dd)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

5–106.

(a) Except as provided by this section ~~and~~, § 1–303 of the Environment Article, AND § 8–1815 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE, a prosecution for a misdemeanor shall be instituted within 1 year after the offense was committed.

(DD) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES IN TALBOT COUNTY TO AN OFFENSE THAT:

(I) OCCURS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA, AS DEFINED IN § 8-1807 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE; AND

(II) IS A VIOLATION OF A LOCAL LAW THAT RELATES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION, INCLUDING A LOCAL LAW REGULATING:

- 1. GRADING;**
- 2. SEDIMENT CONTROL;**
- 3. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT;**
- 4. ZONING;**
- 5. CONSTRUCTION; OR**
- 6. HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

(2) A CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OR A SUIT FOR A CIVIL PENALTY FOR AN OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE INSTITUTED WITHIN 3 YEARS AFTER ~~THE CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION FOR THE CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS OR~~ THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN FACT KNEW OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE VIOLATION.

5-107.

Except as provided in § 5-106 of this subtitle, [and] § 1-303 of the Environment Article, AND § 8-1815 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE, a prosecution or suit for a fine, penalty, or forfeiture shall be instituted within one year after the offense was committed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any offense occurring before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, May 5, 2014.