

HOUSE BILL 1325

M3, M1

7lr1670
CF SB 740

By: Delegates Fraser–Hidalgo, Robinson, Barve, Anderson, Angel, Atterbeary, Barkley, B. Barnes, D. Barnes, Barron, Beidle, Branch, Bromwell, Brooks, Carr, Chang, Conaway, Cullison, Dumais, Ebersole, Fennell, Frush, Gutierrez, Haynes, Healey, Hettleman, Hill, Hixson, Holmes, Jackson, Jameson, Jones, Kaiser, Kelly, Knotts, Kramer, Krimm, Lafferty, Lam, ~~Lewis~~ R. Lewis, Lierman, Lisanti, Luedtke, McIntosh, A. Miller, Moon, Morales, Morhaim, Oaks, Pena–Melnik, Pendergrass, Platt, Queen, Reznik, Rosenberg, Sanchez, Sophocleus, Stein, Turner, Valderrama, Vallario, Waldstreicher, A. Washington, M. Washington, Wilkins, K. Young, ~~and Mosby~~ Mosby, and Gilchrist

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2017

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Oil and Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Prohibition

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from engaging in the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of oil or natural gas in the State; repealing a certain provision of law that requires the Department of the Environment to adopt certain regulations on or before a certain date; repealing a certain provision of law that prohibits the Department from issuing a permit to authorize the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of natural gas in the State until a certain date; defining a certain term; and generally relating to hydraulic fracturing for the exploration or production of oil and natural gas.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Environment
Section 14–107.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

Article – Environment

14–107.1.

(a) [(1)] In this section, “hydraulic fracturing” means a [drilling technique that expands existing fractures or creates new fractures in rock by injecting fluids, often a mixture of water and chemicals, sand, or other substances, and often under pressure, into or underneath the surface of the rock for purposes that include well drilling for the exploration or production of natural gas.

(2) “Hydraulic fracturing” includes:

(i) Fracking;

(ii) Hydrofracking; and

(iii) Hydrofracturing] **STIMULATION TREATMENT PERFORMED ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS WELLS IN LOW-PERMEABILITY OIL OR NATURAL GAS RESERVOIRS THROUGH WHICH SPECIALLY ENGINEERED FLUIDS ARE PUMPED AT HIGH PRESSURE AND RATE INTO THE RESERVOIR INTERVAL TO BE TREATED, CAUSING FRACTURES TO OPEN.**

[(b) On or before October 1, 2016, the Department shall adopt regulations to provide for the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of natural gas in the State.

(c) Regulations adopted by the Department in accordance with subsection (b) of this section may not become effective until October 1, 2017.

(d) The Department may not issue a permit for the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of natural gas in the State until October 1, 2017.]

(B) A PERSON MAY NOT ENGAGE IN THE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OF A WELL FOR THE EXPLORATION OR PRODUCTION OF OIL OR NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.