HOUSE BILL 921

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EMERGENCY BILL
9lr2856

By: Delegates Jacobs, Anderson, Anderton, Arentz, Beitzel, Boteler, Cassilly, Corderman, Fraser–Hidalgo, Hornberger, Kipke, Moon, Otto, Stewart, and Szeliga
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Environment – Conowingo Dam – Water Quality Certification

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment, as part of its review and approval process for an application for a water quality certification for the Conowingo Dam relicensing process, to require the applicant to fulfill certain requirements and conditions related to the removal of trash and debris from the Conowingo Reservoir; defining a certain term; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the water quality certification for the Conowingo Dam relicensing process.

BY adding to Article – Environment
Section 9–354 to be under the new part “Part VII. Water Quality Certification” Annotated Code of Maryland (2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Environment

9–352. RESERVED.

9–353. RESERVED.

PART VII. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION.

9–354.
(A) IN THIS SECTION, “WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION” MEANS A WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION REQUESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 401 OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT.

(B) AS PART OF ITS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR THE CONOWINGO DAM RELICENSING PROCESS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO:

(1) REMOVE FROM THE CONOWINGO RESERVOIR FLOATING TRASH AND VISIBLE DEBRIS AT LEAST 40 TIMES BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND NOVEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR BY ANY METHOD APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(2) USE, SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS, A SELF–PROPELLED SKIMMER BARGE DAILY TO REMOVE TRASH AND DEBRIS FROM THE CONOWINGO RESERVOIR;

(3) SPONSOR, PLAN, AND IMPLEMENT AT LEAST TWO ANNUAL COMMUNITY–BASED CLEANUPS OF THE CONOWINGO RESERVOIR EACH YEAR; AND

(4) CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON OBTAINING, LOCATING, INSTALLING, AND USING WATER WHEEL TRASH INTERCEPTORS FOR REMOVING TRASH AND DEBRIS FROM THE CONOWINGO RESERVOIR.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.