

Chapter 4

(House Bill 375)

AN ACT concerning

Port of Baltimore – Renaming

FOR the purpose of renaming the Port of Baltimore to be the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore; and generally relating to the Port of Baltimore.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 6–102.1(a)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 6–102.1(a)(5); 6–403(a) and 6–405(a) to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 4. Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore”; 24–106.1(e)(1)(vi) and 24–113.1(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

Section 11–202(a)(2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Helen Delich Bentley was born in the copper mining town of Ruth, Nevada, on November 28, 1923, the youngest of six children of a miner and his wife, both of whom were Serbian immigrants; and

WHEREAS, On graduating with a journalism degree from the University of Missouri in 1944, Bentley moved to Maryland after accepting a job with the Baltimore Sun in 1945 and quickly became one of the first women to cover the waterfront for a major newspaper, and, in 1952, became the Baltimore Sun’s maritime editor; and

WHEREAS, Bentley’s growing expertise about the Port of Baltimore led her to become the host and producer of WMAR–TV’s popular series “The Port That Built a City and State”, which ran from 1950 through 1965; and

WHEREAS, Bentley used her newspaper column and television show to increase

awareness of the Port of Baltimore and to advocate for increased public investments in one of Maryland's greatest economic engines and job creators; and

WHEREAS, President Richard Nixon, on recognizing Bentley's accomplishments and reputation within the U.S. maritime industry, appointed her as Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission in 1969, becoming one of the first women to head a federal regulatory agency and serving in this capacity until 1975; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Bentley was elected to serve the first of five consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and immediately began working to enact legislation that would eventually result in a 50-foot channel being dredged for the world's largest oceangoing ships, making the Port of Baltimore the first East Coast port with that distinction; and

WHEREAS, While serving as a member of Congress, Bentley worked to enact bipartisan legislation that strengthened the U.S. maritime industry and made further investments in the Port of Baltimore, and as an influential leader within the maritime industry Bentley worked to foster greater harmony between labor and management and to make the Port of Baltimore one of the most efficient, cost-effective, and successful seaports in the United States; and

WHEREAS, After leaving public service and until her death in 2016 at the age of 93, Bentley continued to work tirelessly to advance the interests of the Port of Baltimore, so much so that the Port of Baltimore was named in her honor in 2006 by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., through an executive order; and

WHEREAS, Codifying the name "Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore" in statute is a proper and deserved recognition of a Maryland citizen whose lifetime of dedicated service and remarkable contributions to the port she loved has led her to be widely regarded as the "Godmother of the Port"; now, therefore,

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

Article – Transportation

6–102.1.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(5) "Marine facility" means a terminal or storage structure or facility used for the purpose of handling, storing, loading, or unloading freight in the **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY** Port of Baltimore.

Subtitle 4. **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY** Port of Baltimore.

6–403.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, any agreement between the Administration and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore in connection with the transfer of the McComas Street Terminal, the National Gypsum Company Pier, or the Broadway Pier (Recreation Pier) shall state:

(1) The duties and functions of Baltimore City or any of its agencies that are imposed by any law on the harbor or [port] **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY PORT** of Baltimore or their operation and that the Administration must perform; and

(2) The time when the Administration must perform these duties and functions.

6–405.

(a) Except for property needed or used in the operation of the fire or police departments of Baltimore City, the Administration may purchase and Baltimore City may sell to the Administration any interest that Baltimore City has in any property used in the operation of the [port] **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY PORT** of Baltimore.

24–106.1.

(e) (1) The provisions of this subsection do not apply to:

(vi) Within the **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY** Port of Baltimore for a distance not to exceed 1 mile, any vehicle carrying a load of loose material between a stockpile or storage facility and a vessel docked at the port.

24–113.1.

(c) The authority granted under the provisions of this section may not be exercised unless and until the Secretary determines in writing that its exercise:

(1) Is required to provide access to or egress from the **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY** Port of Baltimore for international freight;

(2) Will not cause extraordinary damage to roads and bridges in the State or require extraordinary expense for the maintenance of those roads and bridges;

(3) Will not cause undue adverse environmental impact upon or unduly disrupt residential neighborhoods; and

(4) Will not impair highway safety.

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

11–202.

- (a) (2) Of the 9 members of the Board:
- (i) 1 shall be the Secretary, as an ex officio member, or a designee of the Secretary;
 - (ii) 1 shall be the President of the Association;
 - (iii) 3 shall be retired or licensed pilots who have at least 5 years' experience providing pilotage;
 - (iv) 2 shall be members of the steamship industry who actively employ pilots;
 - (v) 1 shall be a representative of the ship docking tugboat industry in the **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY** Port of Baltimore; and
 - (vi) 1 shall be a consumer member.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, shall correct, with no further action required by the General Assembly, cross–references and terminology rendered incorrect by this Act. The publisher shall adequately describe any correction that is made in an editor's note following the section affected.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2024.