

---

**By: Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (Departmental - Environment)**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 5, 1997

---

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Land Reclamation Committee**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying the representation on the Land Reclamation Committee  
4 ~~and altering the number of necessary members present for a quorum; requiring~~  
5 Committee members to recuse themselves under specified circumstances; and  
6 generally relating to the Land Reclamation Committee.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Environment  
9 Section 15-204  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Environment**

15 15-204.

16 (a) (1) There is a Land Reclamation Committee. It consists of the following 13  
17 members:

18 (i) Two members of the Department, including a chairman of the  
19 Committee appointed by the Secretary;

20 (ii) A representative of the soil conservation district of Allegany  
21 County;

2

1 (iii) A representative of the soil conservation district of Garrett  
2 County;

3 (iv) Two members appointed by the Governor with the advice and  
4 consent of the Senate for 3-year terms to represent the mining industry;

5 (v) One member who is a representative of [the] Allegany County  
6 [Planning and Zoning Commission] to be appointed by the Governor, on the  
7 recommendation of the Allegany County Commissioners, with the advice and consent of  
8 the Senate to represent the local government for a 3-year term;

9 (vi) One member who is a representative of [the] Garrett County  
10 [Planning Commission] to be appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the  
11 Garrett County Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the House of Delegates to  
12 represent local government for a 3-year term;

13 (vii) Two members from the community who do not have any interests  
14 in any mining operation, one to be a resident of Garrett County and one to be a resident  
15 of Allegany County, appointed by the Secretary for 3-year terms; and

16 (viii) Three members of the Department of Natural Resources  
17 appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

18 (2) Committee members representing the community or local government  
19 shall receive the per diem set by the Secretary for each day they meet with the Committee  
20 or are called on by the chairman to transact other business of the Committee. Funds for  
21 the per diem allowances shall be provided for in the budget of the Department.

22 (3) The Committee shall meet at the chairman's request and at least twice a  
23 year. A quorum consists of at least ~~9~~ 7 members. No action may be approved by the  
24 Committee unless a quorum is present and a majority of those present approves the  
25 action.

26 (4) COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHALL RECUSE THEMSELVES FROM  
27 PROCEEDINGS THAT MAY AFFECT THEIR DIRECT OR INDIRECT FINANCIAL  
28 INTERESTS.

29 (b) The Committee may:

30 (1) Study and recommend surface coal mine reclamation policies, practices,  
31 and standards;

32 (2) From time to time, review the surface coal mining laws, regulations, and  
33 policies for the purpose of recommending changes to improve the efficiency and  
34 effectiveness of the program;

35 (3) Review proposed changes to the surface coal mining laws and  
36 regulations to provide comments to the General Assembly and the Department;

37 (4) Review the Department's administration of the surface coal mining  
38 regulatory program and the abandoned coal mine reclamation program to determine  
39 compliance with the purpose of the subtitles;

3

1                   (5) Enter on any surface coal mining operation to determine mining and  
2 reclamation conditions; and

3                   (6) Recommend research, demonstration, and cost-sharing projects to  
4 promote optimum revegetation of surface coal mined lands.

5                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 1997.