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By: **Delegate T. Murphy**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environmental Permits - Renewal - Public Hearing**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of the Environment to  
4 conduct certain procedures regarding public notice and comment for the renewal  
5 of certain permits issued by the Department; requiring the Department to make  
6 certain applications for certain permits available for inspection and copying;  
7 requiring the Department to publish certain information regarding certain  
8 permits; and generally relating to permits issued by the Department of the  
9 Environment.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article - Environment  
12 Section 1-603  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Environment**

18 1-603.

19 (a) The Department shall cause to be published notice of applications for  
20 permits AND NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF PERMITS.

21 (b) The Department shall assure that applications for permits AND  
22 APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF PERMITS shall be available to the public for  
23 inspection and copying.

24 (c) (1) Upon written request made within 10 working days after publication  
25 of a notice of application, OR A NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL, or in its own  
26 discretion, the Department shall provide an opportunity for an informational meeting  
27 with respect to the application FOR A PERMIT, OR THE APPLICATION FOR THE  
28 RENEWAL OF A PERMIT.

1           (2)       The informational meeting may be canceled if all persons who made  
2 timely written requests withdraw the requests prior to the meeting.

3           (3)       Unless the notice of application OR THE NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
4 FOR RENEWAL contained a notice of the informational meeting, the Department shall  
5 publish notice of the informational meeting.

6       (d)       (1)       The Department may require the applicant to attend an  
7 informational meeting or public or contested case hearing and present information  
8 concerning the application FOR A PERMIT, OR THE APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL  
9 OF A PERMIT.

10           (2)       If the applicant fails to appear and present information after a  
11 request from the Department, the application FOR A PERMIT, OR THE APPLICATION  
12 FOR THE RENEWAL OF A PERMIT may be denied.

13       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 1998.