
By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Natural Resources - Regional Boat Disposal Centers**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to develop
4 regional centers for the disposal of certain distressed vessels; requiring the
5 Department to pay a certain percentage of the cost of disposal and to require the
6 owner of the vessel to pay a certain percentage of the cost of disposal; declaring
7 certain findings and intent of the General Assembly; authorizing the
8 Department to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to the
9 establishment of regional boat disposal centers.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Natural Resources
12 Section 8-721.2
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article - Natural Resources**

18 8-721.2.

19 (A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

20 (1) THERE IS A GROWING PROBLEM OF INDIVIDUALS ABANDONING
21 THEIR VESSELS WHEN THE VESSELS ARE NO LONGER OPERATIONAL OR
22 SALVAGEABLE;

23 (2) ABANDONED VESSELS IN THE WATERS OF THE STATE ARE A HAZARD
24 TO NAVIGATION, A HAZARD TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND AN IMPEDIMENT TO
25 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND

26 (3) THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING
27 TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR REMOVING ABANDONED VESSELS FROM

1 THE WATERS OF THE STATE, HOWEVER, THE PROCESS IS BOTH CUMBERSOME AND
2 COSTLY.

3 (B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION TO:

4 (1) DEVELOP AN INCENTIVE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO OWNS A
5 DISTRESSED VESSEL TO DISPOSE PROPERLY OF THE VESSEL; AND

6 (2) MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF ABANDONED VESSELS IN THE WATERS
7 OF THE STATE.

8 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH REGIONAL CENTERS THAT
9 PROVIDE FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF DISTRESSED VESSELS THAT ARE PRIVATELY
10 OWNED.

11 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY FOR 75% OF THE COST OF THE
12 DISPOSAL OF A VESSEL.

13 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE OWNER OF THE VESSEL TO
14 PAY THE REMAINING 25% OF THE COST OF THE DISPOSAL OF THE VESSEL.

15 (D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
16 SECTION.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2001.