

SENATE BILL 964

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EMERGENCY BILL

7lr2228

By: **Senators Klausmeier and Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2017

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Aquaculture – Leases – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with
4 interested stakeholders, to ~~study~~ review certain conflicts that arise related to
5 aquaculture and submerged aquatic vegetation, develop certain solutions to these
6 conflicts, and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
7 General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department of Natural
8 Resources, notwithstanding certain provisions of law, to adopt regulations that
9 establish standards and a process under which the Department may assess and
10 evaluate certain aquaculture leases in order to make certain determinations; making
11 this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act; and
12 generally relating to aquaculture leases and submerged aquatic vegetation.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with interested stakeholders,
15 shall:

16 (1) ~~study~~ review the conflicts that arise when implementing its policies of
17 protecting submerged aquatic vegetation and promoting aquaculture in the State;

18 (2) develop solutions to these conflicts that take into account the benefits
19 provided by both submerged aquatic vegetation and aquaculture; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (3) report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
2 legislation, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
3 Article, the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2017.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the
5 provisions of Title 4 of the Natural Resources Article, the Department of Natural Resources
6 may adopt regulations that establish standards and a process under which the Department
7 may assess and evaluate an aquaculture lease on which submerged aquatic vegetation has
8 encroached to determine if aquaculture activity on the lease shall be restricted or prohibited
9 due to the circumstances of the encroachment.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
11 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
12 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
13 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
14 enacted. It shall remain effective through May 31, 2018, and, at the end of May 31, 2018,
15 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
16 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.