M3, M4, M1

By: Senator Gallion

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Environment – Wood Vaults – Authorization and Permit Requirements

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a landowner whose land is subject to an agricultural land 4 preservation easement to use the land for the construction and use of a certain wood $\mathbf{5}$ vault under certain circumstances, notwithstanding the terms of the easement; 6 requiring a person to have a permit issued by the Secretary of the Environment 7 before the person installs, materially alters, or materially extends a certain wood 8 vault; applying certain provisions of law relating to permit requirements for certain 9 facilities, including landfills, to a certain wood vault, including requirements for public participation, financial assurance, and closure; specifying that an easement 10 11 approved by the Maryland Environmental Trust or acquired by the Rural Legacy 12Board may allow for the construction and use of a certain wood vault; and generally 13 relating to wood vaults.

- 14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 15 Article Agriculture
- 16 Section 2–513(a) and (b)(1)
- 17 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 18 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 19 BY adding to
- 20 Article Agriculture
- 21 Section 2–513(e)
- 22 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 23 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 25 Article Agriculture
- 26 Section 2–513(e) and (f)
- 27 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 28 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



4lr1962 CF 4lr1961

- 1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 2 Article Environment
- 3 Section 1–601(a)
- 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 5 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 7 Article Environment
- 8 Section 9–101(a) and (j)(1), 9–201(a), and 9–501(a)
- 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 10 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 12 Article Environment
- 13 Section 9–101(j)(3), 9–201(e), 9–204(a), (c)(1), (d), (e)(1)(i), and (h), 9–204.2, 9–205,
- 14 9-208(a), 9-209, 9-211, 9-212.1, 9-213, 9-214, 9-215, 9-220, 9-221(a),
- 15 9–252, 9–314, and 9–501(n)
- 16 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 18 BY adding to
- 19 Article Environment
- 20 Section 9-101(m) and (n)
- 21 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 22 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 23 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 24 Article Natural Resources
- 25 Section 3-201(a)(1)
- 26 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 27 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 28 BY adding to
- 29 Article Natural Resources
- 30 Section 3–201(d) and 5–9A–05(q)
- 31 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 32 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 33 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 34 Article Natural Resources
- 35 Section 5–9A–05(a)
- 36 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 37 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
- 38 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 39 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Agriculture

2	2-513.
${3 \atop {4} \atop {5} \atop {6}}$	(a) Agricultural land preservation easements may be purchased under this subtitle for any land in agricultural use which meets the minimum criteria established under § 2–509 of this subtitle if the easement and county regulations governing the use of the land include the following provisions:
7	(1) Any farm use of land is permitted.
8 9	(2) Operation at any time of any machinery used in farm production or the primary processing of agricultural products is permitted.
$10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13$	(3) All normal agricultural operations performed in accordance with good husbandry practices which do not cause bodily injury or directly endanger human health are permitted including, but not limited to, sale of farm products produced on the farm where such sales are made.
$\begin{array}{c} 14 \\ 15 \end{array}$	(b) (1) A landowner whose land is subject to an easement may not use the land for any commercial, industrial, or residential purpose except:
$\begin{array}{c} 16 \\ 17 \end{array}$	(i) As determined by the Foundation, for farm– and forest–related uses and home occupations; or
18	(ii) As otherwise provided under this section.
19 20 21 22 23	(E) NOTWITHSTANDING THE TERMS OF AN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT ACQUIRED BY THE FOUNDATION BY PURCHASE, GRANT, GIFT, DONATION, OR OTHERWISE, A LANDOWNER WHOSE LAND IS SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT MAY USE THE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF A WOOD VAULT AS DEFINED IN § 9–101 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.
$\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$	[(e)] (F) Purchase of an easement by the Foundation does not grant the public any right of access or right of use of the subject property.
26 27 28	[(f)] (G) An agricultural land preservation easement purchased under this subtitle shall be included as part of a partnership under the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program established under 10 U.S.C. § 2684a if:
29 30	(1) The land that is subject to an easement is in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, the Atlantic Test Range;

1 (2) The landowner whose land is subject to an easement agrees to any 2 restrictions imposed on the easement under the Readiness and Environmental Protection 3 Integration Program established under 10 U.S.C. § 2684a; and

4 (3) Funding is available to the Foundation to enter into an agreement 5 under the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program established under 6 10 U.S.C. § 2684a.

7

Article – Environment

8 1-601.

9 (a) Permits issued by the Department under the following sections shall be issued 10 in accordance with this subtitle:

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(1) Air quality control permits to construct subject to \$2-404 of this article;

12 (2) Permits to install, materially alter, or materially extend landfill 13 systems, incinerators for public use, **WOOD VAULTS**, or rubble landfills subject to § 9–209 14 of this article;

15 (3) Permits to discharge pollutants to waters of the State issued pursuant 16 to § 9–323 of this article;

17 (4) Permits to install, materially alter, or materially extend a structure 18 used for storage or distribution of any type of sewage sludge issued, renewed, or amended 19 pursuant to § 9–234.1 or § 9–238 of this article;

20 (5) Permits to own, operate, establish, or maintain a controlled hazardous 21 substance facility issued pursuant to § 7–232 of this article;

22 (6) Permits to own, operate, or maintain a hazardous material facility 23 issued pursuant to § 7–103 of this article;

24 (7) Permits to own, operate, establish, or maintain a low-level nuclear 25 waste facility issued pursuant to § 7–233 of this article; and

26 (8) Potable reuse permits issued in accordance with § 9–303.2 of this 27 article.

28 9–101.

29 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

30 (j) (1) "Solid waste" means any garbage, refuse, sludge, or liquid from 31 industrial, commercial, mining, or agricultural operations or from community activities.

4

1	(3)	"Solid	l waste" does not include:
$\frac{2}{3}$	return flows;	(i)	Solid or dissolved material in domestic sewage or in irrigation
4		(ii)	Compost as defined in § 9–1701 of this title;
$5 \\ 6$	in accordance wi	(iii) th regula	Organic material capable of being composted that is composted ations adopted under § 9–1725(b) of this title;
7		(IV)	WOODY BIOMASS; or
8 9	accordance with	[(iv)] regulati	(V) Materials that are managed at a recycling facility in ons adopted under § 9–1713 of this title.
10			ULT" MEANS A STRUCTURE THAT IS USED TO BURY WOODY THAT THE WOODY BIOMASS IS SUBJECTED TO ANOXIC
$\frac{11}{12}$			THAT THE WOODY BIOMASS IS SUBJECTED TO ANOMIC MPEDE OR PREVENT DECOMPOSITION AND RESULT IN
13	EFFECTIVE CAP	BON SE	QUESTRATION.
14	(N) "W	OODY B	IOMASS" MEANS VEGETATION THAT:
$\begin{array}{c} 15\\ 16\end{array}$	(1) CONTAMINANTS	DOES 5 THAT A	S NOT CONTAIN TOXIC CHEMICALS OR OTHER ARE UNSUITABLE FOR LONG–TERM BURIAL; AND
17 18	(2) AND	(I)	IS SOURCED FROM WOOD RESIDUALS UNFIT FOR MARKET;
$\frac{19}{20}$	BURNED, OR O	(II) Fherwi	IF NOT BURIED IN A WOOD VAULT, WOULD BE MULCHED, SE DISPOSED OF, RESULTING IN THE RELEASE OF CARBON
21	,		DT SEQUESTERED.
22	9–201.		
23	(a) In t	his subt	itle the following words have the meanings indicated.
24	(e) (1)	"Refu	se disposal system" includes:
25	[(1)] (I)	An incinerator;
26	[(2)] (II)	A transfer station;
27	[(3)] (III)	A landfill system;
28	[(4)] (IV)	A landfill;

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1	[(5)] (V) A solid waste processing facility; and			
2	[(6)] (VI) Any other solid waste acceptance facility.			
$\frac{3}{4}$	(2) "REFUSE DISPOSAL SYSTEM" DOES NOT INCLUDE A WOOD VAULT AS DEFINED IN § 9–101 OF THIS TITLE.			
5	9–204.			
6 7 8 9	VAULT, refuse disposal system that is for public use, or any refuse disposal system that is a solid waste acceptance facility as defined in § 9–501(n) of this title if the solid waste			
$10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13$	section for a proposed water supply system, sewerage system, WOOD VAULT, or refuse disposal system, the person may submit to the Secretary a preliminary statement on the			
$\begin{array}{c} 14\\ 15\\ 16\end{array}$	the person installs, materially alters, or materially extends a WOOD VAULT, water supply			
17	(e) An applicant for a permit shall:			
18	(1) Submit to the Secretary an application that contains:			
19 20 21	(i) The complete plans and specifications for the installation, alteration, or extension of the WOOD VAULT , water supply system, sewerage system, or refuse disposal system;			
22	(h) A person may not:			
$\begin{array}{c} 23\\ 24\\ 25 \end{array}$	(1) Install, materially alter, or materially extend a water supply system, sewerage system, WOOD VAULT , or refuse disposal system in this State except in accordance with a permit issued to the person by the Secretary under this section; or			
26 27 28	(2) Embody any material change in construction until the Secretary has issued a revised permit based on the submission to the Secretary under subsection (e)(2) of this section.			
29	9–204.2.			

1 In addition to the requirements of § 9-204 of this subtitle and Title 1, Subtitle (a) $\mathbf{2}$ 6 of this article, an applicant for a permit to install, materially alter, or materially extend 3 a landfill system **OR WOOD VAULT** shall give notice of the application by certified mail to: 4 The owners of all real property adjoining the site where the proposed (1) $\mathbf{5}$ project is located; 6 The chairman of the legislative body and any elected executive of the (2)7 county where the proposed project site is located; 8 (3)The elected executive of any municipal corporation where the proposed 9 project site is located; and 10 Any other county within 1 mile of where the proposed project site is (4) 11 located. 12Any informational meeting required by § 1–603 of this article shall be held in (b)13accordance with Title 1, Subtitle 6 of this article. 9-205. 14In this section, "authority" means a water, sewerage, or sanitary district 15(a) 16authority. 17(b) This section applies only to any water supply system, sewerage system, WOOD VAULT, or refuse disposal system that is for public use in this State. 18 19 (c) Any authority or person who owns a water supply system, sewerage system, 20WOOD VAULT, or refuse disposal system or who supplies or is authorized to supply water, 21sewerage, or refuse disposal service to the public shall submit to the Secretary: 22(1)A certified copy of the complete plans for the water supply system, 23sewerage system, WOOD VAULT, or refuse disposal system that: 24(i) Is correct on the date of submission; and 25(ii) Is of the scope and detail that the Secretary requires; and 26(2)Any existing specifications of or reports on the water supply system, 27sewerage system, WOOD VAULT, or refuse disposal system. 28If plans do not exist or are of insufficient scope or detail, the authority or (d) 29person who is required to submit the plans shall: 30 (1)Prepare and submit to the Secretary new or supplemented plans; and

1 (2) Make any investigation that is necessary to ensure that the new or 2 supplemented plans are correct.

3 (e) (1) The Secretary may request any other information about the water 4 supply system, sewerage system, **WOOD VAULT**, or refuse disposal system, including 5 information or records on maintenance and operation, that the Secretary considers 6 appropriate.

7 (2) Any authority or person to whom a request is made under paragraph 8 (1) of this subsection shall submit the information or records to the Secretary.

9 9–208.

10 (a) On request, the Secretary shall consult with and advise the owner, operator, 11 prospective owner, or prospective operator of an existing or planned water supply system, 12 drainage system, sewerage system, **WOOD VAULT**, or refuse disposal system with respect 13 to the existing and future needs of all persons and communities that may be affected on 14 any of the following aspects of the system:

- 15 (1) The most appropriate source of water;
- 16 (2) The best method of assuring the purity of the water; and
- 17 (3) The best method of disposing of drainage, sewage, or refuse.
- 18 9–209.

19 (a) The applicant shall give notice of the application, the informational meeting, 20 and hearings:

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(1) To the public in compliance with Title 1, Subtitle 6 of this article;

(2) By certified mail to the board of county commissioners or the county
council of any county and the chief executive of any county or municipal corporation that
the Department determines may be affected by the incinerator for public use, WOOD
VAULT, or landfill system, including any county or municipal corporation within one mile
of the property line of the proposed incinerator for public use, WOOD VAULT, or landfill
system;

28 (3) To the Department of Natural Resources, by certified mail;

29 (4) By certified mail to each member of the General Assembly representing30 any part of:

31 (i) A county in which the landfill system, WOOD VAULT, or 32 incinerator for public use is located; or 1 (ii) A county within 1 mile of the property line of the proposed 2 landfill system, WOOD VAULT, or incinerator for public use;

3 (5) To record owners of real property within 1,000 feet of the property line 4 of the proposed incinerator for public use, **WOOD VAULT**, or landfill system, by certified 5 mail to the addresses of record owners as indicated in the records of the State Department 6 of Assessments and Taxation; and

6) By posting a notice of the application, the informational meeting, and
hearings in a conspicuous space on the site of the proposed incinerator for public use, WOOD
VAULT, or landfill system.

10 (b) The local officials notified under subsection (a)(2) of this section shall give 11 notice of the application, the informational meeting, and hearings to all interested agencies 12 of their respective jurisdictions.

13 (c) To the extent practicable, the Department and other units of the State 14 government shall consolidate the informational meeting and hearings concerning permits 15 for the same landfill system, WOOD VAULT, or incinerator for public use.

16 9–211.

17 (a) (1) Except for a sanitary landfill that is subject to § 9–211.1 of this subtitle, 18 and as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, before the Secretary issues a permit for 19 a landfill, incinerator, **WOOD VAULT**, or transfer station to any private person, the 20 applicant for the permit shall:

21 (i) File with the Department a bond on the form that the 22 Department provides; or

(ii) Deposit with the governing body of the local jurisdiction where
the landfill, incinerator, WOOD VAULT, or transfer station will be located cash, negotiable
bonds of the federal government or this State, or any other security that the Department
approves.

27 (2) The Secretary may adopt regulations to exempt any legitimate 28 recycling or reclamation facility from the requirements of this section.

29 (b) (1) The obligation of a bond filed under this section shall be so conditioned 30 as to be void on the closing of the landfill, incinerator, **WOOD VAULT**, or transfer station in 31 a manner that prevents erosion, health and safety hazards, nuisances, and pollution.

32 (2) The local governing body that receives a deposit of cash or other security 33 under this section shall hold the security in trust in the name of the local jurisdiction to

$\frac{1}{2}$	assure the closing of the landfill, incinerator, WOOD VAULT , or transfer station in a manner that prevents erosion, health and safety hazards, nuisances, and pollution.			
$3 \\ 4 \\ 5$	(c) A bond filed under this section shall be payable to the governing body of the political subdivision where the landfill, incinerator, WOOD VAULT , or transfer station will be located.			
6	(d)	(1)	Excep	pt as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, for a landfill:
7 8 9				Unless otherwise required by federal law or regulation, a bond hall be in the amount of \$10,000 for each acre of land to which the ess than \$250,000;
10 11	amount spe	cified	(ii) in item	Cash deposited under this section shall be not less than the (i) of this paragraph; and
$\begin{array}{c} 12\\ 13 \end{array}$	shall be not	less tl	(iii) nan the	The market value of other security deposited under this section e amount specified in item (i) of this paragraph.
$\begin{array}{c} 14 \\ 15 \end{array}$	shall establi	(2) .sh the		n incinerator, WOOD VAULT , or transfer station, the Department nt of the security required by this section.
16		(3)	(i)	This paragraph does not apply to a rubble landfill.
17 18 19 20	shall be in t	he am	ount o	For sanitary landfills that are restricted to acceptance of land in regulations of the Department, a bond filed under this section f \$2,000 for each acre of land to which the permit applies, with a urity of \$25,000.
$\begin{array}{c} 21 \\ 22 \end{array}$	(e) in this State		-	plicant for a permit and a corporate surety licensed to do business se any bond filed under this section.
$23 \\ 24 \\ 25$	(f) bond filed u on deposit u		his sect	pt as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the term of any cion and the time during which cash or other security must remain tion is:
$\frac{26}{27}$	VAULT, or t	ransfe	(i) er statio	The duration of the operation of the landfill, incinerator, WOOD on; and
$\frac{28}{29}$	WOOD VAU	L T, or	(ii) transfe	An additional 5 years after the closing of the landfill, incinerator, er station.
$30 \\ 31 \\ 32$,		er statio	e Department has assurances that the landfill, incinerator, WOOD on has been closed in a manner that prevents erosion, health and s, and pollution, the Department may release the security filed or

1 deposited under this section before the end of the 5-year period specified in paragraph
2 (1)(ii) of this subsection.

3 (g) (1) The obligation of the holder of a permit for a landfill, incinerator, **WOOD** 4 **VAULT,** or transfer station and of any corporate surety under the bond shall become due 5 and payable and any cash, securities, or bond proceeds shall be applied to payment of the 6 costs of properly closing a landfill, incinerator, **WOOD VAULT,** or transfer station only if the 7 Department:

8 (i) Notifies the permit holder and any corporate surety on the bond 9 that the landfill, incinerator, **WOOD VAULT**, or transfer station has not been closed in a 10 manner that prevents erosion, health and safety hazards, nuisances, and pollution;

(ii) Specifies in the notice the deficiencies in the closing that must becorrected;

(iii) Gives the permit holder and the corporate surety a reasonable
 opportunity to correct the deficiencies and to close the landfill, incinerator, WOOD VAULT,
 or transfer station in accordance with the regulations of the Department; and

16 (iv) Authorizes the local governing body to close the landfill, 17 incinerator, WOOD VAULT, or transfer station in accordance with the regulations of the 18 Department.

19 (2) The local governing body shall use bond proceeds, cash, or the proceeds 20 of other security to pay the cost of properly closing the landfill, incinerator, **WOOD VAULT**, 21 or transfer station.

22 9-212.1.

The Department may deny an application for a permit for a sanitary landfill system
 OR WOOD VAULT to any nongovernmental person if:

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(1) The owner of the land, the operator, or the applicant has violated:

26 (i) Any law of this State or any other state concerning sanitary 27 landfills **OR WOOD VAULTS**; or

(ii) Any regulation or permit condition of this State or any other
 state concerning sanitary landfills OR WOOD VAULTS; or

30 (2) The Department finds that operation of the sanitary landfill system OR
 31 WOOD VAULT would harm public health or the environment.

32 9–213.

1 (a) A permit for a landfill system **OR WOOD VAULT** expires on the 5th 2 anniversary of its date of issue, unless the permit is renewed for a 5-year term as provided 3 in this section.

4 (b) Before a permit for a landfill system **OR WOOD VAULT** expires, the permit 5 holder may renew it for an additional 5-year term, if the permit holder:

6 (1) Submits to the Department a renewal application on the form that the 7 Department requires;

8 (2) Gives notice, by certified mail, of the renewal application to each 9 member of the General Assembly in whose district the landfill system **OR WOOD VAULT** is 10 located; and

11

(3) Obtains the written approval of the Department.

12 9-214.

13 The Department may refuse to renew a permit for a landfill system **OR WOOD** 14 **VAULT** if:

15 (1) The permit holder violates any provision of this subtitle, any regulation 16 adopted under this subtitle, any condition of the permit, or, if operating a landfill **OR WOOD** 17 **VAULT** in another state, any statute, regulation, or permit of that state concerning landfill 18 systems **OR WOOD VAULTS**;

19 (2) The Department finds that continued operation of the landfill system
 20 OR WOOD VAULT would be injurious to public health or the environment; or

21

(3) The Department finds that there is any other good cause.

22 9–215.

(a) When landfill OR WOOD VAULT operations end, the holder of a permit issued
 under this subtitle for a landfill system OR WOOD VAULT shall close and cover all of the
 land for which the permit was issued in a manner that prevents:

- 26 (1) Erosion;
- 27 (2) Health and safety hazards;
- 28 (3) Nuisances; and
- 29 (4) Pollution.

1 (b) The Department shall adopt regulations that set standards for the closing and 2 covering of landfill systems **AND WOOD VAULTS**.

3 9-220.

4 (a) The Secretary shall order the owner or person in charge of a water supply 5 system, sewerage system, **WOOD VAULT**, or refuse disposal system to correct the following 6 improper conditions, if, after investigation, the Secretary determines that, because of 7 incompetent supervision or inefficient operation, the water supply system, sewerage 8 system, **WOOD VAULT**, or refuse disposal system:

9

(1) Is not producing reasonable results from a sanitary viewpoint;

10

(2) Is a menace to health or comfort; or

11 (3) Is causing a nuisance.

12 (b) The order shall require that the water supply system, sewerage system, 13 WOOD VAULT, or refuse disposal system produce specific, reasonable results within a time 14 that the Secretary sets.

15 (c) (1) If the water supply system, sewerage system, **WOOD VAULT**, or refuse 16 disposal system does not produce the required results within the time that the Secretary 17 sets, the Secretary may order the owner or person in charge to appoint, within a time that 18 the Secretary sets, a person approved by the Secretary to take charge of and operate the 19 system in a manner that will secure the results demanded by the Secretary.

20 (2) The person who is served with an order under paragraph (1) of this 21 subsection shall pay the salary of the person who is appointed in compliance with the order.

22 9-221.

(a) If, after investigation, the Department determines that any water supply
system, sewerage system, WOOD VAULT, or refuse disposal system is a menace to health
or comfort or is causing a nuisance, and that conditions cannot be improved sufficiently
only by changing the method of operation, the Department may order the owner:

27 (1) To alter or extend the water supply system, sewerage system, WOOD
28 VAULT, or refuse disposal system; or

29 (2) To install a new water supply system, sewerage system, WOOD VAULT,
 30 or refuse disposal system.

31 9-252.

	14	SENATE BILL 936
$\frac{1}{2}$	(a) (1) may:	To prevent or correct pollution of the waters of this State, the Secretary
3		(i) Adopt and enforce regulations; and
4		(ii) Order works to be executed.
5	(2)	The Secretary may:
6 7 8	•	(i) Require any public water supply system, public sewerage AULT , or refuse disposal system to be operated in a manner that will alth and comfort; and
9 10	water supply sys	(ii) Order the alteration, extension, or replacement of any public tem, public sewerage system, WOOD VAULT , or refuse disposal system.
11	(b) The	Secretary:
$\begin{array}{c} 12\\ 13 \end{array}$	(1) the waters of this	Has supervision and control over the sanitary and physical condition of s State to protect public health and comfort;
14	(2)	Shall investigate:
15		(i) All sources of water and ice; and
16		(ii) All points of sewage discharge;
17 18	(3) systems, WOOD	Shall examine all public water supply systems, public sewerage VAULTS , and refuse disposal systems; and
19 20 21	(4) water supply sys that is to be built	Shall approve or disapprove the design and construction of any public stem, public sewerage system, WOOD VAULT , or refuse disposal system in this State.
$\frac{22}{23}$.,	powers and duties of the Secretary under this section are in addition to uties set forth elsewhere in this subtitle.
24	9–314.	
$\frac{25}{26}$	(a) (1) waters of this Sta	The Department may adopt [rules and] regulations that set, for the ate, water quality standards and effluent standards.
27	(2)	These standards shall be designed to protect:
28	[(1)]	(I) The public health, safety, and welfare;

$\frac{1}{2}$		nt and future use of the waters of this State for public water		
3	3 [(3)] (III) The p	ropagation of aquatic life and wildlife;		
4	4 [(4)] (IV) Recre	ational use of the waters of this State; and		
$5 \\ 6$		altural, industrial, and other legitimate uses of the waters		
7 8	(b) The [rules and] regulations adopted under this section shall include at least the following:			
$9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12$	term and long term concentrations of pollutants in the water, the minimum permissible concentrations of dissolved oxygen and other desirable matter in the water, and the			
$\begin{array}{c} 13\\14\\15\end{array}$	and the physical, thermal, chemical, biological, and radioactive properties of wastes that			
16 17 18 19	and holes, [for] disposal wells, [for] deep mines and surface mines, WOOD VAULTS, and [for] landfills to prevent groundwater contamination, seepage, and drainage into the			
$\begin{array}{c} 20\\ 21 \end{array}$				
$\frac{22}{23}$				
$\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$				
$\frac{26}{27}$				
28	8 9–501.			
29	9 (a) In this subtitle the	following words have the meanings indicated.		
$30 \\ 31 \\ 32$	incinerator, transfer station, or plant whose primary purpose is to dispose of, treat, or			

1 (2) "SOLID WASTE ACCEPTANCE FACILITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE A 2 WOOD VAULT AS DEFINED IN § 9–101 OF THIS TITLE.

3

Article – Natural Resources

4 3–201.

5 (a) (1) There is a Maryland Environmental Trust established to conserve, 6 improve, stimulate, and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, health and welfare, scenic, and 7 cultural qualities of the environment, including, but not limited to land, water, air, wildlife, 8 scenic qualities, open spaces, buildings or any interest therein, and other appurtenances 9 pertaining in any way to the State.

10 (D) AN EASEMENT APPROVED BY THE TRUST MAY ALLOW FOR THE 11 CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF A WOOD VAULT AS DEFINED IN § 9–101 OF THE 12 ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.

13 5–9A–05.

14 (a) (1) A sponsor may file an application to designate a Rural Legacy Area in 15 accordance with a schedule established by the Board.

16 (2) A local government may not apply for or approve an application for a 17 Rural Legacy Area designation inside another jurisdiction's boundaries without that 18 jurisdiction's approval.

19 (Q) AN EASEMENT ACQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY ALLOW FOR THE 20 CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF A WOOD VAULT AS DEFINED IN § 9–101 OF THE 21 ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly:

(1) finds and declares that wood vaults are a useful tool to address the
 climate crisis; and

25 (2) encourages local governments to minimize permitting burdens on the 26 construction of wood vaults, in a manner similar to other agricultural best management 27 practices.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.