

CHAPTER 428

(Senate Bill 320)

AN ACT concerning

Water Pollution - ~~State Waters - The Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Atlantic Coastal Bays Bay~~ Restoration Fund

FOR the purpose of *adding a certain alternative to requirements for nutrient management plans; altering requirements relating to filings concerning nutrient management plans; eliminating the requirement that a certain farm owner or operator grant the Department of Agriculture the right of entry for a certain purpose; altering the term and fee for the renewal of certain licenses and certificates; authorizing the Department of Agriculture to issue certain certificates for persons operating a farm under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department of Agriculture to procure the services of private certified nutrient management consultants to develop nutrient management plans; authorizing the Department of Agriculture to review certain plans and records under certain circumstances; providing for certain site visits under certain circumstances;* establishing the ~~Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Atlantic Coastal Bays Bay~~ Restoration Fund in the Department of the Environment; *declaring certain legislative intent related to the Fund; authorizing the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration of the Department of the Environment to award certain grants and loans from the Fund; providing for the money in the Fund to be used for grants and loans to upgrade the nutrient removal technology at certain wastewater facilities to achieve enhanced nutrient removal and for certain other uses, in accordance with certain criteria; establishing an environmental surcharge certain Bay restoration fees to be paid by users of wastewater facilities, onsite sewage disposal systems, and sewage holding tanks, and providing for certain exemptions; providing for the collection of the fees by certain collection authorities; authorizing the Comptroller to adopt certain regulations; providing for the management of the Fund, including the establishment from certain fee revenue of a separate account within the Fund to be used for certain purposes; providing for the payment of certain administrative costs; establishing a certain advisory committee, and providing for certain terms, membership, and duties of the committee; requiring certain reports the committee to report to certain persons by certain dates; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations relating to a certain surcharge; providing for the payment of certain bond revenue to the Fund; defining certain terms; providing for the staggering of the terms of certain members of the Advisory Committee; requiring the Department to jointly report to certain legislative committees on or before a certain date; providing for the staggering of the terms of certain members of the Advisory Committee; and generally relating to the establishment and management of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Atlantic Coastal Bays Restoration Fund reduction of nutrient water pollution in waters of the State, particularly the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Coastal Bays.*