

## **CHAPTER 30**

### **(Senate Bill 414)**

AN ACT concerning

#### **Working Waterfront Commission**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Working Waterfront Commission; providing for the composition of the Commission; providing for the appointment of the chair of the Commission; requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding protecting and preserving Maryland's commercial seafood industry's access to public trust waters; requiring the Commission to submit a certain report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the staffing of the Commission; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of the Working Waterfront Commission.

#### Preamble

WHEREAS, Working waterfronts play a vital role in the economy, heritage, culture, and history of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the private and public investment Maryland has made in the commercial seafood industry and communities; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's commercial watermen and seafood packers provide a valuable service as providers of quality seafood to the public, bearers of an invaluable cultural and traditional way of life, stewards of the environment, and contributors to the future growth of heritage and ecotourism; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes specific measures must be taken to ensure the viability of Maryland's seafood industry communities, the supporting economies, and associated livelihoods and traditions; and

WHEREAS, The State must protect and preserve the commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that development pressures increasingly eliminate commercial working waterfront and jeopardize the viability of the commercial seafood industry; and

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake and Atlantic coastal waters provide a resource of great importance to Maryland and its citizens and make a significant contribution to the economic well-being of the State; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

- (a) There is a Working Waterfront Commission.
- (b) The Commission consists of the following members:
  - (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
  - (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
  - (3) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
  - (4) the Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
  - (5) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;
  - (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or the Executive Director's designee;
  - (7) the Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or the Executive Director's designee;
  - (8) ~~the President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, or the President's designee;~~
  - (9) the Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation, or the Executive Director's designee;

~~(10)~~ (9) the Executive Director of the Coastal Bays Association, or the Executive Director's designee;

~~(11)~~ (10) the President of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association, or the President's designee;

~~(12)~~ (11) the Director of the Sea Grant Program, or the Director's designee;

~~(13)~~ (12) the President of the Maryland Waterman's Association and a member of the Maryland Waterman's Association appointed by the President of the Association;

~~(14)~~ (13) the Executive Director of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association, or the Executive Director's designee; and

~~(15)~~ (14) three watermen appointed by the Governor representing:

- (i) the coastal bay;
- (ii) the lower bay; and
- (iii) the upper bay.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(d) The Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) A member of the Commission:

- (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but
- (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding protecting and preserving Maryland's commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters.

(g) On or before December 15, 2007, the Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2007.**