

HB0916/840311/1

BY: Environment and Transportation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 916

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Study on Harvesting Hard-Shell Clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays and Aquaculture Areas in the Chincoteague Bay”; strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 3 down through “Bays” in line 13 and substitute “requiring the Department of Natural Resources to study and make certain recommendations regarding harvesting hard-shell clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays; requiring the Department to identify areas in the Chincoteague Bay that are restricted from being used under an aquaculture lease; requiring the Department to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study on harvesting hard-shell clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays and aquaculture in the Chincoteague Bay”; strike in their entirety lines 14 through 18, inclusive; and in line 20, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 20, insert:

“(a) The Department of Natural Resources shall:

(1) study and make recommendations on the mechanical harvesting of hard-shell clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays in the area between the Verrazano Bridge and the Maryland-Virginia state line, including:

(i) the appropriate types of harvest gear that may be used in mechanical harvesting;

(ii) an appropriate harvest season, taking into consideration hard-shell clam population density thresholds; and

(Over)

**HB0916/840311/1 Environment and Transportation Committee
Amendments to HB 916
Page 2 of 2**

(iii) appropriate harvest limits, taking into consideration:

1. the size of the existing hard-shell clam population; and
2. other hard-shell clam stock assessment parameters developed in response to annual surveys and scientific studies, including mortality and recruitment; and

(2) identify areas in the Chincoteague Bay that are restricted from being used under an aquaculture lease.

(b) On or before December 31, 2016, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike beginning with line 21 on page 1 through line 24 on page 2, inclusive.

On page 2, in line 26, strike “October” and substitute “June”.