

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

M1, P5

7lr3814

By: **Senator Pinsky**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 21, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay Restoration – Federal Budget Blueprint Funding Reductions –**
3 **Rescission Request**

4 FOR the purpose of expressing the opposition of the General Assembly to the drastic cuts
5 to the funding of the Chesapeake Bay Program and certain other federal programs
6 proposed by the President of the United States in a certain budget blueprint; urging
7 the Governor to publicly oppose the drastic cuts proposed by the President of the
8 United States to the funding of the Chesapeake Bay Program and other federal
9 programs supporting efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries;
10 requiring certain committees of the General Assembly to monitor and make
11 recommendations regarding federal budget proposals and actions affecting the
12 Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and generally relating to the federal budget and
13 funding of Chesapeake Bay restoration programs.

14 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is the nation's largest estuary, approximately 200
15 miles long and varying in width from 3.4 miles across at its narrowest point to 35 miles
16 across at its widest point; and

17 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries provide a wide variety of
18 economic and environmental benefits, employment opportunities, recreational
19 opportunities, and ecological, cultural, and historic resources for regional residents and
20 visitors; and

21 WHEREAS, Federal, State, and local governments have made substantial
22 investments in restoring the Chesapeake Bay to increase economic benefits, provide clean
23 water, and reduce health risks to residents of the region; and

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, The value of Chesapeake Bay restoration to Maryland has been
2 estimated to be approximately \$20,400,000,000; and

3 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay Program is a unique regional partnership that has
4 led and directed the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since 1983 and is critical to ongoing
5 restoration efforts; and

6 WHEREAS, Partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program include the U.S.
7 Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, West
8 Virginia, Virginia, the District of Columbia, local governments, the Chesapeake Bay
9 Commission, academic institutions, citizen advisory groups, and various other entities; and

10 WHEREAS, Through the Chesapeake Bay Program, the U.S. Environmental
11 Protection Agency has provided essential federal coordination, support, and oversight that
12 has advanced and accelerated State and local efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its
13 tributaries; and

14 WHEREAS, The budget blueprint for fiscal year 2018 proposed by the President of
15 the United States reduces the funding of the Chesapeake Bay Program from \$73,000,000
16 to \$0, eliminating the program and jeopardizing the recent progress made in restoring the
17 Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

18 WHEREAS, The proposed federal budget cuts could result in significant setbacks to
19 Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts and a reversal of the progress that has been made in
20 reducing pollution, improving water quality, restoring the oyster population, and
21 maintaining other fisheries; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
23 Assembly of Maryland opposes the drastic cuts to the funding of the Chesapeake Bay
24 Program and other federal programs proposed by the President of the United States in the
25 budget blueprint for fiscal year 2018, which reflect the abdication of federal engagement,
26 support, and oversight and will jeopardize the progress made in restoring the Chesapeake
27 Bay; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Governor of
29 Maryland to publicly oppose the drastic cuts proposed by the President of the United States
30 to the funding of the Chesapeake Bay Program and other federal programs supporting
31 efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
33 Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee shall monitor and
34 make recommendations regarding federal budget proposals and actions affecting the
35 Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
37 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland, and

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3

1 the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Christopher
2 Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives
3 Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, III, John P. Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown,
4 Steny Hamilton Hoyer, John Delaney, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie Raskin, House
5 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Approved:

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.