

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

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By: Delegates Barve and Stein, Stein, Branch, Bromwell, Dumais, Frick, Gaines, Healey, Hixson, C. Howard, Jameson, Jones, Kaiser, McIntosh, Pendergrass, Turner, Vallario, and Walker

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 29, 2017

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: April 1, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A House 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

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
2 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland, and
3 the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Christopher
4 Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives
5 Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, III, John P. Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown,
6 Steny Hamilton Hoyer, John Delaney, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie Raskin, House
7 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Approved:

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.