

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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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

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
35 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland, and  
36 the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Christopher  
37 Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives  
38 Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger, III, John P. Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown,

- 1 Steny Hamilton Hoyer, John Delaney, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie Raskin, House
- 2 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.