

Chapter 370

(Senate Bill 600)

AN ACT concerning

Chesapeake Bay Trust and Chesapeake Conservation Corps – Funding

FOR the purpose of altering the amount of money the Chesapeake Bay Trust is required to receive each fiscal year from the Environmental Trust Fund for funding certain energy conservation projects through the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program; requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority to report to the General Assembly, on or before a certain date, on the feasibility of establishing a certain donation program for the benefit of the Chesapeake Bay Trust; ~~authorizing the Authority, if a certain determination is made, to establish a certain donation program;~~ and generally relating to a certain study on the funding of the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 3–302(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 3–302(d)(3)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

~~BY adding to~~~~Article – Transportation~~~~Section 4–312(d)~~~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~~~(2008 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

3–302.

(a) (1) There is an Environmental Trust Fund.

(2) For the purpose of this subtitle, there is established as an added cost of electricity distributed to retail electric customers within the State, an environmental surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric energy distributed in the State to be paid by any

electric company as defined in § 1–101 of the Public Utilities Article. The Public Service Commission shall impose the surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric energy distributed to retail electric customers within the State and shall authorize the electric companies to add the full amount of the surcharge to retail electric customers' bills. To the extent that the surcharge is not collected from retail electric customers, the surcharge shall be deemed a cost of distribution and shall be allowed and computed as such, together with other allowable expenses, for rate-making purposes. Revenues from the surcharge shall be collected by the Comptroller and placed in the Fund.

(d) (3) The Chesapeake Bay Trust shall receive [\$250,000] ~~\$500,000~~ **\$375,000** from the Fund each fiscal year for the purpose of funding energy conservation projects through the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program, as provided under §§ 8–1913 through 8–1924 of this article.

~~Article—Transportation~~

~~4-312.~~

~~(D) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2015, THE AUTHORITY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST, SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DONATION PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TO WHICH E-ZPASS ACCOUNT HOLDERS MAY DONATE.~~

~~(2) IF THE AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT THE DONATION PROGRAM IS FEASIBLE AND APPROPRIATE, THE AUTHORITY MAY ESTABLISH, BY REGULATION, A DONATION PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TO WHICH E-ZPASS ACCOUNT HOLDERS MAY DONATE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2015, the Maryland Transportation Authority, in consultation with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the feasibility of establishing a donation program for the benefit of the Chesapeake Bay Trust to which E-ZPass account holders may donate, including a plan for administering the donations collected by the Authority.

SECTION ~~2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.