

SENATE BILL 620

P1

6lr2887
CF 6lr2989

By: **Senators Middleton, Astle, Benson, Conway, Edwards, Feldman, Gladden, Guzzone, Hough, King, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Miller, Muse, Peters, Pugh, Ramirez, Raskin, Ready, Salling, Serafini, Waugh, Young, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commemorative Weeks – Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim annually a certain week as
4 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week; requiring the proclamation to urge certain
5 organizations to properly observe Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week with certain
6 events, activities, and programs; and generally relating to Chesapeake Bay
7 Awareness Week.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – General Provisions

10 Section 7–601 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6. Commemorative Weeks”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is the largest and, at one time, was the most
15 productive estuary in the United States, spanning six states and the District of Columbia;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay watershed is an extraordinary and vital natural
18 resource, as well as an integral part of the history and heritage of the State; and

19 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is fed by 50 major tributaries, including the
20 Susquehanna River, Potomac River, Patuxent River, Rappahannock River, York River, and
21 James River, and contains more than 15 trillion gallons of water; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay
2 stretches 200 miles from Havre de Grace, Maryland, to Norfolk, Virginia, has an average
3 depth of 21 feet, ranges from 3.4 miles to 35 miles wide, and supports 348 species of finfish,
4 173 species of shellfish, and more than 3,600 species of plant and animal life, including
5 2,700 types of plants and more than 16 species of underwater grasses; and

6 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay area is home to more than 17 million people, many
7 of whom rely on the Bay for their livelihood and recreational activities; and

8 WHEREAS, As an important source of food for the State and the East Coast of the
9 United States, the Chesapeake Bay produces more than 500 million pounds of seafood
10 harvest each year; and

11 WHEREAS, The rich history, pivotal economic importance, and astounding beauty
12 of the Chesapeake Bay watershed never cease to amaze residents and visitors alike; now,
13 therefore,

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

16 **Article – General Provisions**

17 **SUBTITLE 6. COMMEMORATIVE WEEKS.**

18 **7-601.**

19 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE SECOND WEEK IN**
20 **JUNE AS CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK.**

21 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE EDUCATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
22 **ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, THE ALLIANCE**
23 **FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, AND THE CHOOSE CLEAN WATER FOUNDATION, TO**
24 **OBSERVE CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE**
25 **EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE**
26 **IMPORTANCE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TO THE STATE, THE REGION, AND THE**
27 **UNITED STATES.**

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
29 1, 2016.