

Chapter 415

(Senate Bill 620)

AN ACT concerning

Commemorative Weeks – Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

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

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions

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

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article – General Provisions

SUBTITLE 6. COMMEMORATIVE WEEKS.

7-601.

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

(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE EDUCATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, ~~AND THE CHOOSE CLEAN WATER FOUNDATION~~ COALITION, AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN’S ASSOCIATION, TO OBSERVE CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TO THE STATE, THE REGION, AND THE UNITED STATES.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.