

SENATE BILL 73

M1, P1

5lr0653

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senators Simonaire, Ferguson, and Jackson**

Requested: June 7, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program – Renaming**

3 FOR the purpose of renaming the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program to be the
4 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Program;
5 and generally relating to renaming the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Natural Resources
8 Section 3–302(a)(1) and 8–1913(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Natural Resources
13 Section 3–302(d)(3); and 8–1913(f), 8–1914(a), 8–1917(a), and 8–1919(b) to be under
14 the amended part “Part II. Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. Chesapeake
15 Conservation and Climate Corps Program”
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
19 Article – State Government
20 Section 21–206(a)(1)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
24 Article – State Government
25 Section 21–206(f)(3)(iv)
26 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. served in the House of Delegates from 1971 to 1975 and in the Senate from 1975 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. was the longest serving State Senate President in America's history, having served as Maryland Senate President from 1987 to 2020 during his 49 years of service in the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. worked in a bipartisan manner to pass meaningful legislation; and

WHEREAS, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. had a passion for the Chesapeake Bay and for education, and was active with the Chesapeake Bay Trust family since 1985 when it was established by the Maryland General Assembly to engage people in the protection and restoration of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Chapters 257 and 276 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010, sponsored by Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., established the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program and directed the Chesapeake Bay Trust to administer the Program; and

WHEREAS, To continue the memory and honor of Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. and his positive influence on the Chesapeake Bay; now, therefore,

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.

(d) (3) The Chesapeake Bay Trust shall receive \$375,000 from the Fund each fiscal year for the purpose of funding energy conservation projects through the **THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.** Chesapeake Conservation **AND CLIMATE** Corps Program, as provided under §§ 8–1913 through 8–1924 of this article.

Part II. **THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.** Chesapeake Conservation **AND CLIMATE** Corps Program.

8–1913.

(a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

1 (f) "Corps Program" means the **THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.** Chesapeake
2 Conservation AND **CLIMATE** Corps Program established under § 8–1914 of this part.

3 8–1914.

4 (a) There is a **THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.** Chesapeake Conservation AND
5 **CLIMATE** Corps Program administered by the Trust, in consultation with the Corps Board.

6 8–1917.

7 (a) (1) The Trust, in consultation with the Corps Board, shall make grants to
8 qualified organizations for the creation or expansion of full- and part-time **THOMAS V.**
9 **MIKE MILLER, JR.** Chesapeake Conservation AND **CLIMATE** Corps Programs, that
10 involve citizens of all ages throughout the State, to carry out this part.

11 (2) Corps programs shall engage and develop volunteers and stipend
12 volunteers in environmental and energy conservation projects.

13 (3) Eligible Corps Program expenses include personnel costs, stipends,
14 supplies, and other materials for projects undertaken by Corps Program volunteers.

15 8–1919.

16 (b) The Trust shall convene **THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.** Chesapeake
17 Conservation AND **CLIMATE** Corps Program participants on a regular basis in order to:

18 (1) Promote team building among the participants;

19 (2) Develop an understanding of the overall Corps Program purpose;

20 (3) Share information about best practices;

21 (4) Recognize excellence; and

22 (5) Provide training and other learning opportunities.

23 Article – State Government

24 21–206.

25 (a) (1) There is a Maryland Service Year Option Pathway in the Program.

26 (f) (3) Appropriations made under paragraph (1) of this subsection and other
27 funding received by the Department for the MSY Pathway under this section shall be used
28 to:

1 (iv) cover programmatic expenses to expand service opportunities
2 throughout the State, including expanding the **THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.**
3 Chesapeake Conservation **AND CLIMATE** Corps Program, as provided under §§ 8–1913
4 through 8–1924 of the Natural Resources Article.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2025.