

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4789

To amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 to revise and enhance authorities, and to authorize appropriations, for the Chesapeake Bay Office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2000

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. EHR-
LICH, and Mr. GILCHREST) introduced the following bill; which was re-
ferred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
tration Authorization Act of 1992 to revise and enhance
authorities, and to authorize appropriations, for the
Chesapeake Bay Office, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “NOAA Chesapeake
5 Bay Office Reauthorization Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 307(a) of the Na-
3 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Author-
4 ization Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1511d(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Estuarine
6 Resources”; and

7 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later
11 than 60 days after the date of enactment of
12 this subparagraph, the Office shall be adminis-
13 tered by the Office of the Under Secretary of
14 Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

15 “(B) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Com-
16 merce shall appoint as Director of the Office an
17 individual who has knowledge of and experience
18 in research or resource management efforts in
19 the Chesapeake Bay.”.

20 (b) FUNCTIONS.—Section 307(b) of the National
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization
22 Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1511d(b)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
24 following:

25 “(3) coordinate the programs and activities of
26 the various organizations within the National Oce-

1 anic and Atmospheric Administration and the
2 Chesapeake Bay Regional Sea Grant Programs,
3 including—

4 “(A) programs and activities in—

5 “(i) coastal and estuarine research,
6 monitoring, and assessment;

7 “(ii) fisheries research and stock as-
8 sessments;

9 “(iii) data management;

10 “(iv) remote sensing;

11 “(v) coastal management;

12 “(vi) habitat conservation and restora-
13 tion; and

14 “(vii) atmospheric deposition; and

15 “(B) programs and activities of the Coop-
16 erative Oxford Laboratory of the National
17 Ocean Service with respect to—

18 “(i) nonindigenous species;

19 “(ii) marine species pathology;

20 “(iii) human pathogens in marine en-
21 vironments; and

22 “(iv) ecosystems health;”;

23 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
24 the end and inserting the following: “, which report
25 shall include an action plan consisting of—

1 “(A) a list of recommended research, moni-
2 toring, and data collection activities necessary
3 to continue implementation of the strategy de-
4 scribed in paragraph (2); and

5 “(B) proposals for—

6 “(i) continuing and new National Oce-
7 anic and Atmospheric Administration ac-
8 tivities in the Chesapeake Bay; and

9 “(ii) the integration of those activities
10 with the activities of the partners in the
11 Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the
12 commitments of the Chesapeake 2000
13 agreement and subsequent agreements.”.

14 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 307 of the
15 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Au-
16 thorization Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1511d) is amended
17 by striking the section heading and inserting the following:
18 **“SEC. 307. CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.”.**

19 **SEC. 3. MULTIPLE SPECIES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY;**
20 **CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERY AND HABITAT**
21 **RESTORATION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM.**

22 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
23 tion Authorization Act of 1992 is amended by inserting
24 after section 307 (15 U.S.C. 1511d) the following:

1 **“SEC. 307A. MULTIPLE SPECIES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the
4 Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and At-
5 mospheric Administration shall commence a 5-year study,
6 in cooperation with the scientific community of the Chesa-
7 peake Bay and appropriate Federal agencies—

8 “(1) to determine and expand the under-
9 standing of the role and response of living resources
10 in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem; and

11 “(2) to develop a multiple species management
12 strategy for the Chesapeake Bay.

13 “(b) REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—In order to
14 improve the understanding necessary for the development
15 of the strategy under subsection (a), the study shall—

16 “(1) determine the current status and trends of
17 fish and shellfish that live in the Chesapeake Bay es-
18 tuaries and are selected for study;

19 “(2) evaluate and assess interactions among the
20 fish and shellfish described in paragraph (1) and
21 other living resources, with particular attention to
22 the impact of changes within and among trophic lev-
23 els; and

24 “(3) recommend management actions to opti-
25 mize the return of a healthy and balanced ecosystem
26 for the Chesapeake Bay.

1 **“SEC. 307B. CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERY AND HABITAT RES-**
2 **TORATION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Chesapeake
4 Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
5 ministration (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’),
6 in cooperation with the Chesapeake Executive Council (as
7 defined in section 307(e)), shall carry out a community-
8 based fishery and habitat restoration small grants and
9 technical assistance program in the Chesapeake Bay wa-
10 tershed.

11 “(b) PROJECTS.—

12 “(1) SUPPORT.—The Director shall make
13 grants under the program under subsection (a) to
14 pay the Federal share of the cost of projects that
15 are carried out by eligible entities described in sub-
16 section (c) for the restoration of fisheries and habi-
17 tats in the Chesapeake Bay.

18 “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
19 under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 75 percent.

20 “(3) TYPES OF PROJECTS.—Projects for which
21 grants may be made under the program include—

22 “(A) the improvement of fish passageways;

23 “(B) the creation of natural or artificial
24 reefs or substrata for habitats;

25 “(C) the restoration of wetland or sea
26 grass;

1 “(D) the production of oysters for restora-
2 tion projects; and

3 “(E) the restoration of contaminated habi-
4 tats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

5 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are
6 eligible to receive grants under the program under this
7 section:

8 “(1) The government of a political subdivision
9 of a State in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the
10 government of the District of Columbia.

11 “(2) An organization in the Chesapeake Bay
12 watershed (such as an educational institution or a
13 community organization) that is described in section
14 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is
15 exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that
16 Code.

17 “(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Director
18 may prescribe any additional requirements, including pro-
19 cedures, that the Director considers necessary to carry out
20 the program under this section.

21 **“SEC. 307C. COASTAL PREDICTION CENTER.**

22 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
24 the date of enactment of this section, the Director
25 of the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oce-

1 anic and Atmospheric Administration (referred to in
2 this section as the ‘Director’), in collaboration with
3 regional scientific institutions, shall establish a
4 coastal prediction center for the Chesapeake Bay
5 (referred to in this section as the ‘center’).

6 “(2) PURPOSE OF CENTER.—The center shall
7 serve as a knowledge bank for—

8 “(A) assembling, integrating, and modeling
9 coastal information and data from appropriate
10 government agencies and scientific institutions;

11 “(B) interpreting the data; and

12 “(C) organizing the data into predictive
13 products that are useful to policy makers, re-
14 source managers, scientists, and the public.

15 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—

16 “(1) INFORMATION AND PREDICTION SYS-
17 TEM.—The center shall develop an Internet-based
18 information system for integrating, interpreting, and
19 disseminating coastal information and predictions
20 concerning—

21 “(A) climate;

22 “(B) land use;

23 “(C) coastal pollution;

24 “(D) coastal environmental quality;

25 “(E) ecosystem health and performance;

1 “(F) aquatic living resources and habitat
2 conditions; and

3 “(G) weather, tides, currents, and circula-
4 tion that affect the distribution of sediments,
5 nutrients, and organisms, coastline erosion, and
6 related physical and chemical events within the
7 Chesapeake Bay and the tributaries of the
8 Chesapeake Bay.

9 “(2) AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE DATA, INFOR-
10 MATION, AND SUPPORT.—The Director may enter
11 into agreements with other entities of the National
12 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, other ap-
13 propriate Federal, State, and local government agen-
14 cies, and academic institutions, to provide and inter-
15 pret data and information, and provide appropriate
16 support, relating to the activities of the center.

17 “(3) AGREEMENTS RELATING TO INFORMATION
18 PRODUCTS.—The Director may enter into grants,
19 contracts, and interagency agreements with eligible
20 entities for the collection, processing, analysis, inter-
21 pretation, and electronic publication of information
22 products for the center.”.

23 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 307 of the National Oce-
25 anic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act

1 of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1511d) is amended by striking sub-
2 section (d) and inserting the following:

3 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
5 appropriated to the Department of Commerce for
6 the Chesapeake Bay Office \$6,000,000 for each of
7 fiscal years 2001 through 2004.

8 “(2) AMOUNTS FOR NEW PROGRAMS.—Of the
9 amount authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal
10 year under paragraph (1)—

11 “(A) not more than \$2,500,000 shall be
12 available to carry out section 307A;

13 “(B) not more than \$1,000,000 shall be
14 available to carry out section 307B; and

15 “(C) not more than \$500,000 shall be
16 available to carry out section 307C.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2 of the
18 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine
19 Fisheries Program Authorization Act (Public Law 98–
20 210; 97 Stat. 1409) is amended by striking subsection (e)
21 (106 Stat. 4285).

22 **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**

23 Section 307(b) of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
24 pheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (15
25 U.S.C. 1511d(b)) is amended by striking “Chesapeake

1 Bay Executive Council” and inserting “Chesapeake Exec-
2 utive Council”.

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