

R032-0708

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE**
20 **BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

30 **WHEREAS:** The Chesapeake Bay is Maryland’s most important natural feature, and

40 **WHEREAS:** The Chesapeake Bay has been designated as an “impaired water body” under the
50 Clean Water Act as a result of poor water quality, and,

60 **WHEREAS:** The continued decline of the blue crab, oyster, and shad population in the
70 Chesapeake Bay threatens the livelihood of Marylanders who depend on the
80 Bay, and

90 **WHEREAS:** Current environmental protection policies have not adequately preserved the
100 Bay for future Marylanders, and

110 **WHEREAS:** The purpose of the National Marine Sanctuary Program is to promote
120 conservation while allowing compatible commercial and recreational activities,
130 and,

140 **WHEREAS:** The 1972 Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act gives the Secretary
150 of Commerce the authorization to designate discrete areas of the marine
160 environment as national marine sanctuaries to promote comprehensive
170 management of their special conservation, recreational, ecological, historical,
180 research, educational, or aesthetic resources, and

190 **WHEREAS:** The primary objective of a sanctuary is to protect its natural and cultural features
200 while allowing people to use and enjoy the ocean in a sustainable way, and,

210 **WHEREAS:** The Florida Keys, California’s Channel Islands, and other ecologically and
220 economically important waters have been designated as National Marine
230 Sanctuaries in order to promote preservation while still allowing for their
240 commercial use.

250 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Secretary
260 of Commerce to designate the Chesapeake Bay and all tidal waters in its
270 watershed as the “Chesapeake Bay National Marine Sanctuary.”

280 **MANDATES:** Carlos M. Gutierrez, Secretary of Commerce

SPONSOR:
Governor Jared Luner,
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