

R021-0910

10 A Resolution Concerning
20 BUDGET ALLOCATION TO CHESAPEAKE BAY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

30 WHEREAS: In 2000, the Chesapeake Bay Program, a regional partnership of state and federal agencies,
40 academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations which serve as the primary leader in bay
50 restoration efforts, signed the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement; and,

60 WHEREAS: In signing this initiative, the program partners recommitted to their goal of removing the Bay
70 from the EPA’s endangered waters list by 2010; and,

80 WHEREAS: The 2000 initiative appears on the track to failure; and,

90 WHEREAS: This most recent letdown mirrors those of the last 20 years; and,

100 WHEREAS: The major factor in this apparent failure has been an inability to reduce manure
120 concentrations in the bay; and,

130 WHEREAS: Manure is the single largest Bay pollutant; and,

140 WHEREAS: Manure reduction has been so unsuccessful because farmers have difficulty complying with
150 nutrient reduction regulations; and,

160 WHEREAS: This is due to the fact that many farmers are reluctant to employ “greener” agricultural
170 technologies because of the negative impact this overhaul would have on their finances; and,

180 WHEREAS: Making matters worse, funding shortfalls plague financial assistance programs created to
190 help farmers transition towards nutrient reduction farming practices.

200 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland state
210 government to set aside 1% of each fiscal year’s budget to fund Chesapeake Bay conservation programs;
220 and,

220 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: These funds would more specifically be used to fund conservation
230 programs such as the financial assistance programs created to help farmers’ afford the transition to nutrient
240 reducing technology.

250 MANDATES:
260 Governor Martin O’ Malley
270 Lt. Governor Anthony Brown
280 Senator Ben Cardin
290 Senator Barbara Mikulski
300 The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Delegate

SPONSOR:
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