

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

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OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

At the end of division H, add the following:

1 **SEC. 40002. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this division:

3 (1) CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENTS.—The
4 term “Chesapeake Bay agreements” means the for-
5 mal, voluntary agreements—

6 (A) executed to achieve the goal of restor-
7 ing and protecting the Chesapeake Bay water-
8 shed ecosystem and the living resources of the
9 Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem; and

10 (B) signed by the Chesapeake Executive
11 Council.

12 (2) CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.—The term
13 “Chesapeake Bay program” means the program di-
14 rected by the Chesapeake Executive Council in ac-
15 cordance with the Chesapeake Bay agreements.

16 (3) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—The term
17 “Chesapeake Bay watershed” means the region that
18 covers—

19 (A) the Chesapeake Bay;

1 (B) the portions of the States of Delaware,
2 Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia,
3 and West Virginia that drain into the Chesapeake Bay; and

4 (C) the District of Columbia.

5 (4) CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The
6 term “Chesapeake Executive Council” means the
7 council comprised of—

8 (A) the Governors of each of the States of
9 Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania,
10 Virginia, and West Virginia;

11 (B) the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

12 (C) the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Com-
13 mission; and

14 (D) the Administrator of the Environ-
15 mental Protection Agency.

16 (5) CHESAPEAKE WILD PROGRAM.—The term
17 “Chesapeake WILD program” means the nonregula-
18 tory program established by the Secretary under sec-
19 tion 40003(a).

20 (6) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant pro-
21 gram” means the Chesapeake Watershed Invest-
22 ments for Landscape Defense grant program estab-
23 lished by the Secretary under section 40004(a).
24

1 (7) RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIV-
2 ITY.—The term “restoration and protection activity”
3 means an activity carried out for the conservation,
4 stewardship, and enhancement of habitat for fish
5 and wildlife—

6 (A) to preserve and improve ecosystems
7 and ecological processes on which the fish and
8 wildlife depend; and

9 (B) for use and enjoyment by the public.

10 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
12 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
13 ice.

14 **SEC. 40003. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
17 tablish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the
18 “Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape De-
19 fense program”.

20 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Chesapeake
21 WILD program include—

22 (1) coordinating restoration and protection ac-
23 tivities among Federal, State, local, and regional en-
24 tities and conservation partners throughout the
25 Chesapeake Bay watershed;

1 (2) engaging other agencies and organizations
2 to build a broader range of partner support, capac-
3 ity, and potential funding for projects in the Ches-
4 apeake Bay watershed;

5 (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and
6 protection activities, and providing for technical as-
7 sistance, throughout the Chesapeake Bay water-
8 shed—

9 (A) to sustain and enhance restoration and
10 protection activities;

11 (B) to improve and maintain water quality
12 to support fish and wildlife, habitats of fish and
13 wildlife, and drinking water for people;

14 (C) to sustain and enhance water manage-
15 ment for volume and flood damage mitigation
16 improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habi-
17 tat;

18 (D) to improve opportunities for public ac-
19 cess and recreation in the Chesapeake Bay wa-
20 tershed consistent with the ecological needs of
21 fish and wildlife habitat;

22 (E) to facilitate strategic planning to maxi-
23 mize the resilience of natural ecosystems and
24 habitats under changing watershed conditions;

1 (F) to utilize green infrastructure or nat-
2 ural infrastructure best management practices
3 to enhance fish and wildlife habitat;

4 (G) to engage the public through outreach,
5 education, and citizen involvement to increase
6 capacity and support for coordinated restora-
7 tion and protection activities in the Chesapeake
8 Bay watershed;

9 (H) to sustain and enhance vulnerable
10 communities and fish and wildlife habitat;

11 (I) to conserve and restore fish, wildlife,
12 and plant corridors; and

13 (J) to increase scientific capacity to sup-
14 port the planning, monitoring, and research ac-
15 tivities necessary to carry out coordinated res-
16 toration and protection activities.

17 (c) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Chesapeake WILD
18 program, the Secretary shall—

19 (1) draw on existing plans for the Chesapeake
20 Bay watershed, or portions of the Chesapeake Bay
21 watershed, including the Chesapeake Bay agree-
22 ments, and work in consultation with applicable
23 management entities, including Chesapeake Bay pro-
24 gram partners, such as the Federal Government,
25 State and local governments, the Chesapeake Bay

1 Commission, and other regional organizations, as
2 appropriate, to identify, prioritize, and implement
3 restoration and protection activities within the
4 Chesapeake Bay watershed;

5 (2) adopt a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide
6 strategy that—

7 (A) supports the implementation of a
8 shared set of science-based restoration and pro-
9 tection activities developed in accordance with
10 paragraph (1); and

11 (B) targets cost-effective projects with
12 measurable results; and

13 (3) establish the grant program in accordance
14 with section 40004.

15 (d) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Chesapeake
16 WILD program, the Secretary shall consult, as appro-
17 priate, with—

18 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

19 (A) the Administrator of the Environ-
20 mental Protection Agency;

21 (B) the Administrator of the National Oce-
22 anic and Atmospheric Administration;

23 (C) the Chief of the Natural Resources
24 Conservation Service;

25 (D) the Chief of Engineers;

1 (E) the Director of the United States Geo-
2 logical Survey;

3 (F) the Secretary of Transportation;

4 (G) the Chief of the Forest Service; and

5 (H) the head of any other applicable agen-
6 cy;

7 (2) the Governors of each of the States of Dela-
8 ware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia,
9 and West Virginia and the Mayor of the District of
10 Columbia;

11 (3) fish and wildlife joint venture partnerships;
12 and

13 (4) other public agencies and organizations with
14 authority for the planning and implementation of
15 conservation strategies in the Chesapeake Bay wa-
16 tershed.

17 **SEC. 40004. GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

18 (a) CHESAPEAKE WILD GRANT PROGRAM.—To the
19 extent that funds are made available to carry out this sec-
20 tion, the Secretary shall establish and carry out, as part
21 of the Chesapeake WILD program, a voluntary grant and
22 technical assistance program, to be known as the “Chesa-
23 peake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense
24 grant program”, to provide competitive matching grants
25 of varying amounts and technical assistance to eligible en-

1 tities described in subsection (b) to carry out activities de-
2 scribed in section 40003(b).

3 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are
4 eligible to receive a grant and technical assistance under
5 the grant program:

6 (1) A State.

7 (2) The District of Columbia.

8 (3) A unit of local government.

9 (4) A nonprofit organization.

10 (5) An institution of higher education.

11 (6) Any other entity that the Secretary deter-
12 mines to be appropriate in accordance with the cri-
13 teria established under subsection (c).

14 (c) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation with
15 officials and entities described in section 40003(d), shall
16 establish criteria for the grant program to help ensure
17 that activities funded under this section—

18 (1) accomplish 1 or more of the purposes de-
19 scribed in section 40003(b); and

20 (2) advance the implementation of priority ac-
21 tions or needs identified in the Chesapeake Bay wa-
22 tershed-wide strategy adopted under section
23 40003(c)(2).

24 (d) COST SHARING.—

1 (1) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SHARE.—

2 The Department of the Interior share of the cost of
3 a project funded under the grant program shall not
4 exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project, as
5 determined by the Secretary.

6 (2) NON-DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
7 SHARE.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The non-Department of
9 the Interior share of the cost of a project fund-
10 ed under the grant program may be provided in
11 cash or in the form of an in-kind contribution
12 of services or materials.

13 (B) OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING.—Non-De-
14 partment of the Interior Federal funds may be
15 used for not more than 25 percent of the total
16 cost of a project funded under the grant pro-
17 gram.

18 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may enter into
19 an agreement to manage the grant program with an orga-
20 nization that offers grant management services.

21 **SEC. 40005. REPORTING.**

22 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
23 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
24 submit to Congress a report describing the implementation
25 of sections 40002 through 40006 of this Act, including

1 a description of each project that has received funding
2 under this Act.

3 **SEC. 40006. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
5 priated such sums as are necessary to carry out sections
6 40002 through 40006 of this Act.

7 (b) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
8 available under subsection (a) shall supplement, and not
9 supplant, funding for other activities conducted by the
10 Secretary in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

