

CHAPTER 576

(Senate Bill 813)

AN ACT concerning

Bistate Agreement on the Chesapeake Bay

FOR the purpose of enacting on the part of this State an agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland for the utilization of the resources and management of the Chesapeake Bay; creating a Chesapeake Bay Commission; establishing the terms, composition, compensation, procedures, and budgetary system of the Commission; establishing the purposes, powers, and duties of the Commission relative to the Chesapeake Bay; providing for amendments to the agreement, and for the duration and dissolution of the Bistate Agreement on the Chesapeake Bay; providing for the enactment and effective date of this agreement; and generally relating to the Bistate Agreement on the Chesapeake Bay.

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources
Section 8-302
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1979 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, wetlands, and dependent natural resources constitute a unified ecosystem shared and used by the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Utilization of the resources of the Bay, including, but not limited to, management and regulatory programs for migratory fowl, finfish, shellfish and implementation of methods to achieve compatible usage of the Bay for commercial and mercantile interests and all actions which affect changes in water quality, substantially involve the joint interests of the State and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, By mutual resolution, the legislatures of Virginia and Maryland established the Chesapeake Bay Legislative Advisory Commission which was charged with reviewing bistate and federal Chesapeake Bay management practices; and

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay Legislative Advisory Commission has identified, in its final report to the State and the Commonwealth, the need for improved coordination of