

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1492

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a pilot program to make grants to eligible institutions to develop, demonstrate, or disseminate information on practices, methods, or techniques relating to environmental education and training in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2005

Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ALLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a pilot program to make grants to eligible institutions to develop, demonstrate, or disseminate information on practices, methods, or techniques relating to environmental education and training in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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 “Chesapeake Bay Envi-  
5 ronmental Education Pilot Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) increasing public environmental awareness  
4 and understanding through formal environmental  
5 education and meaningful bay or stream field experi-  
6 ences are vital parts of the effort to protect and re-  
7 store the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem;

8 (2) using the Chesapeake Bay watershed as an  
9 integrating context for learning can help—

10 (A) advance student learning skills;

11 (B) improve academic achievement in core  
12 academic subjects; and

13 (C)(i) encourage positive behavior of stu-  
14 dents in school; and

15 (ii) encourage environmental stewardship  
16 in school and in the community; and

17 (3) the Federal Government, acting through the  
18 Secretary of Education, should work with the Under  
19 Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, the Chesa-  
20 peake Executive Council, State educational agencies,  
21 elementary schools and secondary schools, and non-  
22 profit educational and environmental organizations  
23 to support development of curricula, teacher train-  
24 ing, special projects, and other activities, to increase  
25 understanding of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and  
26 to improve awareness of environmental problems.

1 **SEC. 3. CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**  
 2 **AND TRAINING GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
 4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended by add-  
 5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“PART D—CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL**  
 7 **EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANT PILOT**  
 8 **PROGRAM**

9 **“SEC. 4401. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this part:

11 “(1) BAY WATERSHED STATE.—The term ‘Bay  
 12 Watershed State’ means each of the States of Dela-  
 13 ware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia,  
 14 and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

15 “(2) CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The  
 16 term ‘Chesapeake Executive Council’ has the mean-  
 17 ing given the term in section 307(d) of the National  
 18 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authoriza-  
 19 tion Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1511d(d)).

20 “(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-  
 21 ble institution’ means—

22 “(A) a public elementary school or sec-  
 23 ondary school located in a Bay Watershed  
 24 State; and

1           “(B) a nonprofit environmental or edu-  
2           cational organization located in a Bay Water-  
3           shed State.

4           “(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means  
5           the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Education and  
6           Training Grant Pilot Program established under sec-  
7           tion 4402.

8   **“SEC. 4402. CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDU-**  
9                           **CATION AND TRAINING GRANT PILOT PRO-**  
10                           **GRAM.**

11          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
12          grant program, to be known as the ‘Chesapeake Bay Envi-  
13          ronmental Education and Training Grant Pilot Program’,  
14          to make grants to eligible institutions to pay the Federal  
15          share of the cost of developing, demonstrating, or dissemi-  
16          nating information on practices, methods, or techniques  
17          relating to environmental education and training in the  
18          Chesapeake Bay watershed.

19          “(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share referred  
20          to in subsection (a) shall be 50 percent.

21          “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may offer to  
22          enter into a cooperative agreement or contract with the  
23          National Fish and Wildlife Foundation established by the  
24          National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act  
25          (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the Under Secretary for Oceans

1 and Atmosphere, a State educational agency, or a non-  
2 profit organization that carries out environmental edu-  
3 cation and training programs, for administration of the  
4 Program.

5 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-  
6 ceives a grant under the Program shall use the funds  
7 made available through the grant to carry out a project  
8 consisting of—

9 “(1) design, demonstration, or dissemination of  
10 environmental curricula, including development of  
11 educational tools or materials;

12 “(2) design or demonstration of field practices,  
13 methods, or techniques, including—

14 “(A) assessments of environmental or eco-  
15 logical conditions; and

16 “(B) analyses of environmental pollution  
17 or other natural resource problems;

18 “(3) understanding and assessment of a specific  
19 environmental issue or a specific environmental  
20 problem;

21 “(4) provision of training or related education  
22 for teachers or other educational personnel, includ-  
23 ing provision of programs or curricula to meet the  
24 needs of students in various age groups or at various  
25 grade levels;

1           “(5) provision of an environmental education  
2 seminar, teleconference, or workshop for environ-  
3 mental education professionals or environmental  
4 education students, or provision of a computer net-  
5 work for such professionals and students;

6           “(6) provision of on-the-ground activities involv-  
7 ing students and teachers, such as—

8                 “(A) riparian forest buffer restoration; and

9                 “(B) volunteer water quality monitoring at  
10 schools;

11           “(7) provision of a Chesapeake Bay or stream  
12 outdoor educational experience; or

13           “(8) development of distance learning or other  
14 courses or workshops that are acceptable in all Bay  
15 Watershed States and apply throughout the Ches-  
16 peake Bay watershed.

17           “(e) REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—In car-  
18 rying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

19                 “(1) solicit applications for projects;

20                 “(2) select suitable projects from among the  
21 projects proposed;

22                 “(3) supervise projects;

23                 “(4) evaluate the results of projects; and

1           “(5) disseminate information on the effective-  
2           ness and feasibility of the practices, methods, and  
3           techniques addressed by the projects.

4           “(f) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—Not later  
5           than 90 days after the date on which amounts are first  
6           made available to carry out this part, and each year there-  
7           after, the Secretary shall publish a notice of solicitation  
8           for applications for grants under the Program that speci-  
9           fies the information to be included in each application.

10          “(g) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
11          grant under the Program, an eligible institution shall sub-  
12          mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
13          form, and containing such information as the Secretary  
14          may require.

15          “(h) PRIORITY IN SELECTION OF PROJECTS.—In  
16          making grants under the Program, the Secretary shall  
17          give priority to an applicant that proposes a project that  
18          will develop—

19                 “(1) a new or significantly improved environ-  
20                 mental education practice, method, or technique, in  
21                 multiple disciplines, or a program that assists appro-  
22                 priate entities and individuals in meeting Federal or  
23                 State academic standards relating to environmental  
24                 education;

1           “(2) an environmental education practice, meth-  
2           od, or technique that may have wide application; and

3           “(3) an environmental education practice, meth-  
4           od, or technique that addresses a skill or scientific  
5           field identified as a priority by the Chesapeake Exec-  
6           utive Council.

7           “(i) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.**—Under the  
8           Program, the maximum amount of a grant shall be  
9           \$50,000.

10          “(j) **NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 3 days before  
11          making a grant under this part, the Secretary shall pro-  
12          vide notification of the grant to the appropriate commit-  
13          tees of Congress.

14          “(k) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 1 year after the  
15          date of enactment of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental  
16          Education Pilot Program Act, the Secretary shall promul-  
17          gate regulations concerning implementation of the Pro-  
18          gram.

19          **“SEC. 4403. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

20          “(a) **EVALUATION.**—Not later than December 31,  
21          2009, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with an  
22          entity that is not the recipient of a grant under this part  
23          to conduct a detailed evaluation of the Program. In con-  
24          ducting the evaluation, the Secretary shall determine



1 whether the quality of content, delivery, and outcome of  
2 the Program warrant continued support of the Program.

3 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2010,  
4 the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate  
5 committees of Congress containing the results of the eval-  
6 uation.

7 **“SEC. 4404. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
9 priated to carry out this part \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal  
10 years 2006 through 2009.

11 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts  
12 made available under subsection (a) for each fiscal year,  
13 not more than 10 percent may be used for administrative  
14 expenses.”.

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