

CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS  
NETWORK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

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NOVEMBER 18, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the  
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2427]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2427) to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK.**

Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (54 U.S.C. 320101 note; Public Law 105–312) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2025”.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2427 is to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (Network) is a state, local, and federal partnership established by the

Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998<sup>1</sup> to help the National Park Service (NPS) and its partners connect people to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Network is comprised of a system of more than 170 sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that highlight historical interactions between people and the Chesapeake Bay area.

Since its establishment, the Network has been critical for expanding public access to the Chesapeake Bay and supports enhanced interpretation, education, youth employment, and recreation associated with the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.<sup>2</sup> Of the 11,684 miles of shoreline in the Chesapeake Bay, 98% is privately owned<sup>3</sup>—limiting opportunities for the public to enjoy and experience the region’s natural, cultural, and historic resources.

H.R. 2427 seeks to ensure that this vital program continues to promote public access to the region by extending the authorization of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network from 2019 to 2025. The Network, originally authorized through 2003,<sup>4</sup> has been reauthorized several times.<sup>5</sup>

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2427 was introduced on May 1, 2019, by Representative John Sarbanes (D–MD). The bill was referred solely to the House Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. The Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill on May 22, 2019. On June 19, 2019, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. Chair Raúl Grijalva (D–AZ) offered an amendment that was agreed to by voice vote. No additional amendments were offered, and the bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

#### HEARINGS

For the purposes of section 103(i) of H. Res. 6 of the 116th Congress—the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 2427: legislative hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on May 22, 2019.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

<sup>1</sup>Pub. L. No. 105–312, tit. V, 112 Stat. 2961 (1998).

<sup>2</sup>Press Release, Office of U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, Warner, Cardin, Delmarva Senators Call to Expand Chesapeake Bay Public Access (May 2, 2019), <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2019/5/warner-cardin-delmarva-senators-call-to-expand-chesapeake-bay-public-access>.

<sup>3</sup>*Chesapeake Gateways*, CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY, <https://chesapeakeconservancy.org/what-we-do/explore/find-your-chesapeake/chesapeake-gateways/> (last visited Oct. 24, 2019).

<sup>4</sup>Pub. L. No. 105–312, tit. V, § 502(c), 112 Stat. at 2963.

<sup>5</sup>See 54 U.S.C. § 320,101 note (collecting reauthorizations).

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET  
ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, June 28, 2019.*

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,  
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2427, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is David Hughes.

Sincerely,

MARK P. HADLEY  
(For Phillip L. Swagel, Director).

Enclosure.

<b>H.R. 2427, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019</b>			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 19, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	13	18
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 2427 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million annually for the National Park Service's (NPS's) Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network grant program from 2020 through 2025. Under current law, that authorization expires at the end of 2019. In 2018 and 2019, the NPS allocated about \$2 million each year for the program. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2427 would cost \$13 million over the 2019–2024 period and \$5 million after 2024.

The costs of the legislation (detailed in Table 1) fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER H.R. 2427

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2019– 2024
Authorization .....	0	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays .....	0	2	2	3	3	3	13

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Hughes. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of Rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill is to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111—139. The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CFDA No. 15.930) reauthorized by this bill is related and complementary to, but not duplicative of, the following program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 6104: National Trails System Projects (CFDA No. 15.935).

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omit-

ted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE ACT OF 1998**

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**TITLE V—CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE**

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**SEC. 502. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS.**

(a) **CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in cooperation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”), shall provide technical and financial assistance, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector—

(A) to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret natural, recreational, historical, and cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed;

(B) to identify and utilize the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay;

(C) to link the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other connections as determined by the Secretary;

(D) to develop and establish Chesapeake Bay Watertrails comprising water routes and connections to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

(E) to create a network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

(2) **COMPONENTS.—**Components of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network may include—

(A) State or Federal parks or refuges;

(B) historic seaports;

(C) archaeological, cultural, historical, or recreational sites; or

(D) other public access and interpretive sites as selected by the Secretary.

(b) **CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS GRANTS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary, in cooperation with the Administrator, shall establish a Chesapeake Bay Gateways Grants Assistance Program to aid State and local governments, local communities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector in conserving, restoring, and interpreting important historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

(2) **CRITERIA.—**The Secretary, in cooperation with the Administrator, shall develop appropriate eligibility, prioritization, and review criteria for grants under this section.

(3) MATCHING FUNDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A grant under this section—

(A) shall not exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs;

(B) shall be made on the condition that non-Federal sources, including in-kind contributions of services or materials, provide the remainder of eligible project costs; and

(C) shall be made on the condition that not more than 10 percent of all eligible project costs be used for administrative expenses.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through ~~2019~~ 2025.

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.