

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1579

To establish a Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 1997

Mr. GILCHREST (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish a Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails
Network, and for other purposes.

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 Gate-
5 ways and Watertrails Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS SITES.—The
9 term “Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites” means the

1 Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites identified under sec-
2 tion 5(a)(2).

3 (2) CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND
4 WATERTRAILS NETWORK.—The term “Chesapeake
5 Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network” means the
6 network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and
7 Chesapeake Bay Watertrails created under section
8 5(a)(5).

9 (3) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—The term
10 “Chesapeake Bay Watershed” shall have the mean-
11 ing determined by the Secretary.

12 (4) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERTRAILS.—The
13 term “Chesapeake Bay Watertrails” means the
14 Chesapeake Bay Watertrails established under sec-
15 tion 5(a)(4).

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Di-
18 rector of the National Park Service).

19 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

20 Congress finds that—

21 (1) the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure
22 and a resource of international significance;

23 (2) the region within the Chesapeake Bay wa-
24 tershed possesses outstanding natural, cultural, his-
25 torical, and recreational resources that combine to

1 form nationally distinctive and linked waterway and
2 terrestrial landscapes;

3 (3) there is a need to study and interpret the
4 connection between the unique cultural heritage of
5 human settlements throughout the Chesapeake Bay
6 Watershed and the waterways and other natural re-
7 sources that led to the settlements and on which the
8 settlements depend; and

9 (4) as a formal partner in the Chesapeake Bay
10 Program, the Secretary has an important respon-
11 sibility—

12 (A) to further assist regional, State, and
13 local partners in efforts to increase public
14 awareness of and access to the Chesapeake
15 Bay;

16 (B) to help communities and private land-
17 owners conserve important regional resources;
18 and

19 (C) to study, interpret, and link the re-
20 gional resources with each other and with
21 Chesapeake Bay Watershed conservation, res-
22 toration, and education efforts.

23 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES.**

24 The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to identify opportunities for increased public
2 access to and education about the Chesapeake Bay;

3 (2) to provide financial and technical assistance
4 to communities for conserving important natural,
5 cultural, historical, and recreational resources within
6 the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

7 (3) to link appropriate national parks, water-
8 ways, monuments, parkways, wildlife refuges, other
9 national historic sites, and regional or local heritage
10 areas into a network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways
11 sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

12 **SEC. 5. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS**
13 **NETWORK.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide tech-
15 nical and financial assistance, in cooperation with other
16 Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit
17 organizations, and the private sector—

18 (1) to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret
19 natural, recreational, historical, and cultural re-
20 sources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed;

21 (2) to identify and utilize the collective re-
22 sources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for en-
23 hancing public education of and access to the Ches-
24 apeake Bay;

1 (3) to link the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites
2 with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other con-
3 nections as determined by the Secretary;

4 (4) to develop and establish Chesapeake Bay
5 Watertrails comprising water routes and connections
6 to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land
7 resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed;
8 and

9 (5) to create a network of Chesapeake Bay
10 Gateways sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

11 (b) COMPONENTS.—Components of the Chesapeake
12 Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network may include—

13 (1) State or Federal parks or refuges;

14 (2) historic seaports;

15 (3) archaeological, cultural, historical, or rec-
16 reational sites; or

17 (4) other public access and interpretive sites as
18 selected by the Secretary.

19 **SEC. 6. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS GRANTS ASSISTANCE**
20 **PROGRAM.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
22 Chesapeake Bay Gateways Grants Assistance Program to
23 aid State and local governments, local communities, non-
24 profit organizations, and the private sector in conserving,
25 restoring, and interpreting important historic, cultural,

1 recreational, and natural resources within the Chesapeake
2 Bay Watershed.

3 (b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall develop appro-
4 priate eligibility, prioritization, and review criteria for
5 grants under this section.

6 (c) MATCHING FUNDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
7 PENSES.—A grant under this section—

8 (1) shall not exceed 50 percent of eligible
9 project costs;

10 (2) shall be made on the condition that non-
11 Federal sources, including in-kind contributions of
12 services or materials, provide the remainder of eligi-
13 ble project costs; and

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

17 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
19 this Act \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.

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