TITLE V—CHESAPEAKE BAY
SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND
ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT

SEC. 501. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the National Oceanic
and Atmospheric Administration’s Chesapeake Bay Office
should be the primary representative of the National Oce-
anic and Atmospheric Administration in the Chesapeake
Bay watershed.

SEC. 502. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC
AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE.

Section 307 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
1511d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “(in this section” and all that follows and inserting a pe-

(751626|3)
(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) The Office shall be headed by a Director, who—

“(A) shall have knowledge and experience in research or resource management efforts in the Chesapeake Bay; and

“(B) shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the office and the implementation of this Act.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “Secretary of Commerce” and inserting “Administrator”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “, the Chesapeake Bay Regional Sea Grant Programs, and the Chesapeake Bay units of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System,” and inserting “that relate to the Chesapeake Bay watershed in furtherance of such Administration’s coastal resource stewardship mission,”:

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—
(I) in clause (vi), by striking “and” at the end; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) coastal hazards and climate change; and”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in clause (iv), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) integrated ecosystem assessments;”;}

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “Environmental Protection Agency” and inserting “Chesapeake Executive Council”; and

(ii) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “as appropriate to further the purposes of this section”;}

(D) by striking paragraphs (5) and (7);

(E) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5); and
(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) perform any functions necessary to support the programs referred to in paragraph (3).”

and

(3) by striking subsections (c), (d), and (e); and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, through the Director, shall implement the program activities authorized by this section to support the activity of the Chesapeake Executive Council and to further the purposes of this section.

“(2) ENSUREING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MERIT.—The Director shall—

“(A) establish and use an effective and transparent mechanism to ensure that projects funded under this section have undergone appropriate peer review; and

“(B) provide other appropriate means to determine that such projects have acceptable scientific and technical merit for the purpose of achieving maximum use of available funds and resources to benefit the Chesapeake Bay area.

“(3) CONSULTATION WITH CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The Director shall, in the imple-
mentation of the program activities authorized under
this section, consult with the Chesapeake Executive
Council, to ensure that the activities of the Office
are consistent with the purposes and priorities of the
Chesapeake Bay Agreement and plans developed
pursuant to the such agreement.

“(4) INTEGRATED COASTAL OBSERVATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
through the Director, may collaborate with sci-
entific and academic institutions, State and
Federal agencies, non-governmental organiza-
tions, and other constituents in the Chesapeake
Bay watershed, to support an integrated observ-
vations system for the Chesapeake Bay con-
sistent with the purposes of the Integrated
Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of
2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.).

“(B) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—To sup-
port the system referred to in subparagraph (A)
and provide a complete set of environmental in-
formation for the Chesapeake Bay, the Director
shall—

“(i) coordinate existing monitoring
and observation activities in the Chesap-
peake Bay;
“(ii) identify new data collection needs and deploy new technologies, as appropriate;

“(iii) collect and analyze the scientific information necessary for the management of living marine resources and the marine habitat associated with such resources; and

“(iv) organize the information described in clause (iii) into products that are useful to policy makers, resource managers, scientists, and the public.

“(C) Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System.—To further the development and implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System, the Director may—

“(i) support the establishment and implementation of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail;

“(ii) delineate key waypoints along the trail and provide appropriate real-time data and information for trail users;

“(iii) interpret data and information for use by educators and students to inspire stewardship of Chesapeake Bay; and
“(iv) incorporate the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System into the Integrated Ocean Observing System regional network of observatories.

“(5) Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training Program.—

“(A) In General.—The Administrator, through the Director, may establish a Chesapeake Bay watershed education and training program. The program shall—

“(i) continue and expand the Chesapeake Bay watershed education programs offered by the Office immediately before the enactment of the Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2019;

“(ii) improve the understanding of elementary and secondary school students and teachers of the living resources of the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay;

“(iii) provide community education to improve watershed protection; and

“(iv) meet the educational goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
“(B) Grant Program.—The Director may award grants for the purposes of this paragraph. Grants awarded under this subparagraph may be used to support education and training projects that enhance understanding and assessment of a specific environmental problem in the Chesapeake Bay watershed or a goal of the Chesapeake Bay Program, or protect or restore living resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including projects that—

“(i) provide classroom education, including the development and use of distance learning and other innovative technologies, related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

“(ii) provide watershed educational experiences in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

“(iii) provide professional development for teachers related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the dissemination of pertinent education materials oriented to varying grade levels;
“(iv) demonstrate or disseminate environmental educational tools and materials related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

“(v) demonstrate field methods, practices, and techniques including assessment of environmental and ecological conditions and analysis of environmental problems;

“(vi) build the capacity of organizations to deliver high quality environmental education programs; and

“(vii) educate local land use officials and decision makers on the relationship of land use to natural resource and watershed protection.

“(C) COORDINATION.—The Director shall implement the education and training program in coordination with the heads of other Federal agencies, as the Director determines appropriate.

“(6) COASTAL AND LIVING RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, through the Director, may establish a Chesapeake Bay Coastal Living Resources Management and Habitat Program to support coordi-
nated management, protection, characterization, and restoration of priority Chesapeake Bay habitats and living resources, including oysters, blue crabs, and submerged aquatic vegetation.

“(B) ACTIVITIES.—Under the Chesapeake Bay Coastal Living Resources Management and Habitat Program, the Director may carry out or enter into grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and provide technical assistance to support—

“(i) native oyster—

“(I) research; and

“(II) restoration;

“(ii) fish and shellfish aquaculture that is carried out in accordance with a valid Federal or State permit;

“(iii) establishment of submerged aquatic vegetation propagation programs;

“(iv) the development of programs that restore, protect, and build the resilience of critical coastal habitats;

“(v) habitat mapping, characterization, and assessment techniques necessary to identify, assess, and monitor restoration actions;
“(vi) application and transfer of applied scientific research and ecosystem management tools to fisheries and habitat managers;

“(vii) collection, synthesis, and sharing of information to inform and influence coastal and living resource management issues; and

“(viii) other activities that the director determines are appropriate to carry out the purposes of such program.

“(d) DELEGATION.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority as may be necessary to carry out this section.

“(2) STAFF.—The Administrator shall delegate to the Director appropriate staff representing expertise that covers the breadth of the duties of the Office.

“(e) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, through the Director, shall submit a biennial report to the Congress and the Secretary of Commerce on the activities of the Office and on progress made in
protecting and restoring the living resources and
habitat of the Chesapeake Bay.

“(2) ACTION PLAN.—Each such report shall in-
clude an action plan for the 2-year period following
submission of the report, consisting of—

“(A) a list of recommended research, moni-
toring, and data collection activities necessary
to continue implementation of the strategy
under subsection (b)(2); and

“(B) recommendations to integrate Na-
tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
activities with the activities of the partners in
the Chesapeake Bay Program to meet the com-
mitments of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement
and subsequent agreements.

“(f) AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
through the Director, may enter into and perform
such contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agree-
ments as may be necessary to carry out the purposes
of this Act.

“(2) USE OF OTHER RESOURCES.—For pur-
poses related to the understanding, protection, and
restoration of Chesapeake Bay, the Director may
use, with consent and with or without reimburse-
ment, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any Department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian Tribe, or of any political subdivision thereof.

“(3) DONATIONS.—The Director may accept donations of funds, other property, and services for use in understanding, protecting, and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Donations accepted under this section shall be considered as a gift or bequest to or for the use of the United States. The Director may reject such gift if such rejection is in the interest of the Government.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT.—The term ‘Chesapeake Bay Agreement’ means the formal, voluntary agreements executed to achieve the goal of restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and are signed by the Chesapeake Executive Council.
“(3) Chesapeake Executive Council.—The term ‘Chesapeake Executive Council’ means the representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Environmental Protection Agency, Delaware, New York, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, who are signatories to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, and any future signatories to that agreement.

“(4) Director.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office.

“(5) Office.—The term ‘Office’ means the Chesapeake Bay Office established under this section.

“(h) Authorization of Appropriations.—

“(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section—

“(A) $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(B) $20,700,000 for fiscal year 2022;

“(C) $22,570,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

“(D) $24,627,000 for fiscal year 2024.

“(2) Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1), not less than $2,000,000 in each fis-
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cal year may be used for purposes described in sub-
2 section (e)(6)(B)(i)(II).”.