

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide for the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay,
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 Con-
5 servation Acceleration Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHESAPEAKE BAY STATES PARTNERSHIP INITIA-**
7 **TIVE.**

8 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
9 rity Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section
10 1240M (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) the following:

1 **“SEC. 1240N. CHESAPEAKE BAY STATES PARTNERSHIP INI-**
2 **TIATIVE.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—The
5 term ‘Chesapeake Bay watershed’ means—

6 “(A) the Chesapeake Bay;

7 “(B) the portions of the States of Dela-
8 ware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Vir-
9 ginia, and West Virginia that contain the tribu-
10 taries, backwaters, and side channels (including
11 their watersheds) that drain into the Ches-
12 peake Bay; and

13 “(C) the District of Columbia.

14 “(2) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘Initiative’ means
15 the Chesapeake Bay States Partnership Initiative es-
16 tablished under subsection (b).

17 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-
18 retary shall establish and carry out an initiative, to be
19 known as the ‘Chesapeake Bay States Partnership Initia-
20 tive’, to assist producers in implementing conservation ac-
21 tivities on agricultural land in the Chesapeake Bay water-
22 shed for the purposes of—

23 “(1) improving water quality and quantity;

24 “(2) restoring, enhancing, and preserving soil,
25 air, and related resources; and

1 “(3) increasing the resilience of agricultural
2 production to withstand the impacts of climate
3 change.

4 “(c) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
5 shall provide funds made available to carry out the Initia-
6 tive through applicable programs under this subtitle, in-
7 cluding by providing enrollment opportunities that are tar-
8 geted to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, to assist pro-
9 ducers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in enhancing
10 land and water resources by—

11 “(1) controlling erosion and reducing sediment
12 and nutrient levels in groundwater and surface
13 water; and

14 “(2) planning, designing, implementing, and
15 evaluating habitat conservation, restoration, and en-
16 hancement measures in cases in which there is sig-
17 nificant ecological value if the applicable land is—

18 “(A) retained in the current use of the
19 land; or

20 “(B) restored to the natural condition of
21 the land.

22 “(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In providing funds under
23 the Initiative, the Secretary shall give special consider-
24 ation to applications—

1 “(1) submitted by producers in the Chesapeake
2 Bay watershed river basins in which nutrient reduc-
3 tion efforts would be most effective; or

4 “(2) to carry out conservation activities that re-
5 duce nitrogen and sediment, improve management of
6 livestock and waste, or conserve wetlands in the
7 Chesapeake Bay watershed.

8 “(e) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out the
9 Initiative, the Secretary shall—

10 “(1) as available, use existing plans, models,
11 and assessments to assist producers in implementing
12 conservation activities; and

13 “(2) proceed expeditiously to provide funding to
14 producers to implement conservation activities that
15 are consistent with State strategies for the restora-
16 tion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

17 “(f) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The Sec-
18 retary shall—

19 “(1) in consultation with appropriate Federal
20 agencies, ensure that conservation activities carried
21 out under the Initiative complement Federal, State,
22 and local programs, including programs that address
23 water quality, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;
24 and

1 “(2) in carrying out this section, coordinate
2 with the Farm Service Agency to identify needs and
3 opportunities for buffer management on land subject
4 to a contract under the conservation reserve pro-
5 gram under subchapter B of chapter 1 that may be
6 expiring soon.

7 “(g) TASK FORCE ON CREDITING CHESAPEAKE BAY
8 CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Ad-
10 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
11 shall jointly establish a Federal task force, to be
12 known as the ‘Task Force on Crediting Chesapeake
13 Bay Conservation Investments’ (referred to in this
14 subsection as the ‘Task Force’).

15 “(2) ACTION PLAN.—The Task Force shall de-
16 velop an action plan that—

17 “(A) identifies improvements to the proc-
18 esses of analyzing, reporting, and quantifying
19 nutrient reductions from conservation activities
20 in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

21 “(B) is responsive to the needs of States in
22 the Chesapeake Bay watershed (including the
23 District of Columbia) and the agricultural com-
24 munity;

1 “(C) maintains the scientific integrity of
2 the decisionmaking process and accounting
3 tools under the Chesapeake Bay Program (as
4 defined in section 117(a) of the Federal Water
5 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267(a)));
6 and

7 “(D) ensures producer privacy is protected.

8 “(3) IDENTIFICATION OF OPPORTUNITIES.—
9 The Task Force shall leverage findings from suc-
10 cessful data-sharing pilot projects to identify oppor-
11 tunities to integrate time-saving technologies for the
12 implementation of conservation activities in the
13 Chesapeake Bay watershed.”.

14 **SEC. 3. CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PRO-**
15 **GRAM PARTICIPATION.**

16 (a) CONSERVATION RESERVE.—

17 (1) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 1231(a) of
18 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a))
19 is amended by striking “the 2023 fiscal year” and
20 inserting “fiscal year 2028”.

21 (2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Section 1231(b) of the
22 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)) is
23 amended—

24 (A) in paragraph (6)(B)(ii), by striking
25 “or” at the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(8) cropland, marginal pastureland, grass-
5 lands, and other rural land that will—

6 “(A) have a positive impact on water qual-
7 ity in furtherance of the goals of the conserva-
8 tion reserve enhancement program under sec-
9 tion 1231A; and

10 “(B) be devoted to a riparian buffer.”.

11 (3) CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT
12 PROGRAM.—Section 1231A(b) of the Food Security
13 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(b)) is amended—

14 (A) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
15 the following:

16 “(C) UPDATES.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
18 shall provide to each signatory to an agree-
19 ment under this subsection an option to
20 update the agreement, without renegoti-
21 ating other provisions of the agreement, to
22 include new incentives made available
23 under this subchapter beginning on Janu-
24 ary 1, 2018, such as riparian forest buffer
25 management payments.

1 “(ii) MATCHING FUNDS.—Require-
2 ments for matching funds described in
3 paragraph (2)(B) shall not apply to an up-
4 date to an agreement under clause (i).”;
5 and

6 (B) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(4) AMENDMENTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an
9 amendment to an agreement under this sub-
10 section, including an addendum to such an
11 agreement, the Secretary shall—

12 “(i) streamline the amendment proc-
13 ess relating to time-sensitive national pri-
14 orities, including the Chesapeake Bay total
15 maximum daily load; and

16 “(ii) give priority to simple amend-
17 ments to update existing agreements in ac-
18 cordance with paragraph (3)(C).

19 “(B) SIMPLE AMENDMENTS.—A simple
20 amendment to an agreement described in sub-
21 paragraph (A)(ii) shall not constitute a renegoti-
22 ation of the agreement.”.

23 (4) PAYMENTS.—Section 1234 of the Food Se-
24 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834) is amended—

25 (A) in subsection (b)(4)—

1 (i) by striking “In addition” and in-
2 sserting the following:

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition”; and

4 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(B) MINIMUM PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN
7 CONTRACTS.—In the case of a contract updated
8 under section 1231A(b)(3)(C), the incentive
9 payment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an
10 amount that is not less than 40 percent of the
11 actual costs described in that subparagraph.”;
12 and

13 (B) in subsection (g)(1), by striking
14 “\$50,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

15 (b) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-
16 GRAM.—

17 (1) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—
18 Section 1240B(j)(2)(C) of the Food Security Act of
19 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(j)(2)(C)) is amended—

20 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (B) in clause (ii), by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(iii) consider participation in the
2 conservation reserve program and the con-
3 servation reserve enhancement program
4 under subchapter B of chapter 1, and
5 practices under those programs (such as
6 riparian buffers), in prioritizing grazing
7 practices under the program established by
8 this subchapter with respect to the effi-
9 cient implementation of grazing systems to
10 holistically address resource concerns.”.

11 (2) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—Section
12 1240C(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
13 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(b)) is amended—

14 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
15 the end;

16 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-
17 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(5) that would include grazing practices under
20 the program established by this subchapter, in con-
21 sideration of participation in the conservation re-
22 serve program and the conservation reserve enhance-
23 ment program under subchapter B of chapter 1, and
24 practices under those programs (such as riparian
25 buffers), with respect to the efficient implementation

1 of grazing systems to holistically address resource
2 concerns.”.

3 **SEC. 4. CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED TURNKEY PILOT**
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 Section 1231C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3831c) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(c) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED TURNKEY
9 PILOT PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

11 “(A) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—

12 The term ‘Chesapeake Bay watershed’ has the
13 meaning given the term in section 1240N(a).

14 “(B) CREP DEFINITIONS.—The terms
15 ‘CREP’, ‘eligible land’, and ‘management’ have
16 the meanings given those terms in section
17 1231A(a).

18 “(C) ELIGIBLE PRACTICE.—The term ‘eli-
19 gible practice’ means a forested riparian buffer
20 practice under a CREP and any associated ac-
21 tivities, including—

22 “(i) a stream crossing;

23 “(ii) fencing and alternate water sys-
24 tems;

25 “(iii) herbicide applications; and

1 “(iv) any other activity that is appro-
2 priate to establish the practice.

3 “(D) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot
4 program’ means the pilot program established
5 under paragraph (2).

6 “(E) TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER.—
7 The term ‘technical service provider’ means a
8 third-party provider with which the Secretary
9 enters into an agreement under paragraph
10 (5)(A).

11 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
12 tablish a pilot program under which the Secretary
13 shall provide, for voluntary owners and operators,
14 establishment and management of eligible practices
15 on eligible land located in the Chesapeake Bay wa-
16 tershed that is enrolled through a CREP.

17 “(3) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—With respect to
18 eligible land enrolled through the pilot program, the
19 Secretary—

20 “(A) may provide, for the owner or oper-
21 ator, establishment and management of an eli-
22 gible practice on the eligible land using a tech-
23 nical service provider pursuant to an agreement
24 under paragraph (5); and

1 “(B) shall not require the owner or oper-
2 ator—

3 “(i) to pay any costs of the establish-
4 ment or management of an eligible prac-
5 tice, including any compensation provided
6 under paragraph (5)(C); or

7 “(ii) to submit to the Secretary any
8 additional paperwork with respect to the
9 pilot program.

10 “(4) DUTIES OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—

11 Each owner or operator of eligible land enrolled
12 through the pilot program—

13 “(A) shall provide to the Secretary and
14 any technical service providers, as applicable,
15 access to the eligible land for purposes of the
16 establishment or management of an eligible
17 practice under the pilot program; and

18 “(B) may not receive any cost-share pay-
19 ment, practice incentive payment, or manage-
20 ment payment under this subchapter with re-
21 spect to an eligible practice under the pilot pro-
22 gram.

23 “(5) AGREEMENTS WITH TECHNICAL SERVICE
24 PROVIDERS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
2 enter into an agreement under section 1242
3 with 1 or more third-party providers certified
4 under that section, including a third-party pro-
5 vider certified through a streamlined certifi-
6 cation process under subsection (e)(5) of that
7 section, that provide technical assistance under
8 this title in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to
9 conduct the establishment and management of
10 an eligible practice on eligible land under the
11 pilot program.

12 “(B) ACTIVITIES.—In addition to any ac-
13 tivity that a technical service provider may con-
14 duct pursuant to section 1242 relating to the
15 establishment of an eligible practice, a technical
16 service provider may carry out such activities as
17 are necessary to conduct the establishment and
18 management of an eligible practice under the
19 pilot program.

20 “(C) COMPENSATION.—Under an agree-
21 ment entered into under subparagraph (A), the
22 Secretary shall provide to a technical service
23 provider reasonable compensation for services
24 provided under the agreement, including admin-

1 istrative assistance, technical assistance, design
2 assistance, and installation costs.

3 “(6) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
4 year after the date of enactment of this subsection,
5 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
6 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and
7 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives a report describing the status of, and
9 any activities carried out under, the pilot program.”.

10 **SEC. 5. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

11 (a) GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AG-
12 RICULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1417 of the Na-
14 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach-
15 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (A) in subsection (b)—

18 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
19 (1), by inserting “, junior or community
20 colleges, and postsecondary vocational in-
21 stitutions” after “other colleges and uni-
22 versities”; and

23 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking
24 “food and agricultural sciences teaching
25 programs, or teaching programs empha-

1 sizing” and inserting “teaching programs,
2 including paid work-based learning, for
3 food and agricultural sciences or”;

4 (B) in subsection (c)—

5 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking
6 “and” at the end;

7 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking the
8 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
9 and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(3) applications for teaching enhancement
13 projects, including paid work-based learning, that
14 address a need for additional trained professionals in
15 food and agricultural sciences or rural economic de-
16 velopment, community development, or business de-
17 velopment.”;

18 (C) in subsection (j)—

19 (i) by striking paragraph (1); and

20 (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
21 and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respec-
22 tively;

23 (D) in subsection (l), by striking “sub-
24 section (j)” and inserting “subsection (k)”;

25 (E) in subsection (m)—

1 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
5 and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(3) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
9 through 2031.”;

10 (F) by striking “subsection (b)” each place
11 it appears and inserting “subsection (c)”;

12 (G) by redesignating subsections (a)
13 through (m) as subsections (b) through (n), re-
14 spectively; and

15 (H) by inserting before subsection (b) (as
16 so redesignated) the following:

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
19 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
20 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

22 “(2) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The
23 term ‘junior or community college’ has the meaning
24 given the term in section 312 of the Higher Edu-
25 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

1 “(3) POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL INSTITU-
2 TION.—The term ‘postsecondary vocational institu-
3 tion’ has the meaning given the term in section
4 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 1002(c)).

6 “(4) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term ‘sec-
7 ondary school’ has the meaning given the term in
8 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

10 “(5) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
11 ‘work-based learning’ has the meaning given the
12 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
13 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C.
14 2302).”.

15 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (A) Section 708 of the Agriculture, Rural
17 Development, Food and Drug Administration,
18 and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1992
19 (7 U.S.C. 2209b), is amended by striking “sec-
20 tion 1417(b)(6) of the National Agricultural
21 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
22 of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(6))”
23 and inserting “subsection (c)(6) of section 1417
24 of the National Agricultural Research, Exten-

1 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
2 U.S.C. 3152)”.
3

4 (B) Section 251(f)(1) of the Department
5 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
6 U.S.C. 6971(f)(1)) is amended—

7 (i) in subparagraph (C)(v), by striking
8 “section 1417(b) of the National Agricul-
9 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching
10 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(b))”
11 and inserting “subsection (c) of section
12 1417 of the National Agricultural Re-
13 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy
14 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152)”; and

15 (ii) in subparagraph (D)(v), by strik-
16 ing “section 1417(j) of the National Agri-
17 cultural Research, Extension, and Teach-
18 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(j))”
19 and inserting “subsection (k) of section
20 1417 of the National Agricultural Re-
21 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy
22 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152)”.

23 (b) EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.—Section
24 1252(a)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3851(a)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period
4 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(F) assisting cooperative initiatives under
7 subsection (c)(3) of section 1417 of the Na-
8 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and
9 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152)
10 to improve higher education teaching programs,
11 including paid work-based learning, at—

12 “(i) land-grant colleges and univer-
13 sities (including the University of the Dis-
14 trict of Columbia);

15 “(ii) colleges and universities having
16 significant minority enrollments and a de-
17 monstrable capacity to carry out the teach-
18 ing of food and agricultural sciences; and

19 “(iii) other colleges and universities,
20 junior or community colleges (as defined in
21 section 312 of the Higher Education Act
22 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)), and postsec-
23 ondary vocational institutions (as defined
24 in section 102(c) of the Higher Education
25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) having a

1 demonstrable capacity to carry out the
2 teaching of food and agricultural
3 sciences.”.

4 (c) COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RE-
5 SEARCH GRANTS.—Subsection (b) of the Competitive,
6 Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C.
7 3157(b)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking “teaching”
9 and inserting “teaching, including paid work-based
10 learning (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Per-
11 kins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
12 (20 U.S.C. 2302))”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (7)(B), by inserting “, junior
14 or community colleges (as defined in section 312 of
15 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 1058)), and postsecondary vocational institutions (as
17 defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))” after “colleges
19 and universities”.

20 **SEC. 6. NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.**

21 Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
22 U.S.C. 3842) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ap-
2 point, without regard to the provisions of subchapter
3 I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other
4 than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title), qualified
5 candidates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to
6 positions within the Natural Resources Conservation
7 Service that provide technical assistance under con-
8 servation programs administered by the Natural Re-
9 sources Conservation Service.

10 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies
11 to any candidate who—

12 “(A) is qualified to provide the technical
13 assistance described in paragraph (1), as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary; and

15 “(B) meets qualification standards estab-
16 lished by the Office of Personnel Manage-
17 ment.”.

18 **SEC. 7. PRIMARY REGULATORY OVERSIGHT FOR DOMES-**
19 **TIC, WILD-CAUGHT, INVASIVE CATFISH.**

20 (a) EXEMPTION FROM OVERSIGHT.—

21 (1) FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE.—
22 Section 1(w)(2) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act
23 (21 U.S.C. 601(w)(2)) is amended by inserting “,
24 except for domestic, wild-caught blue catfish
25 (*Ictalurus furcatus*) and flathead catfish (*Pylodictis*

1 *olivaris*) invasive to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem”
2 before the semicolon.

3 (2) USDA GRADING PROGRAM.—Section
4 203(n)(1) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
5 (7 U.S.C. 1622(n)(1)) is amended by inserting “, ex-
6 cept for domestic, wild-caught blue catfish (*Ictalurus*
7 *furcatus*) and flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*)
8 invasive to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem” before
9 the semicolon.

10 (b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—Not later than
11 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the
13 “Secretary”) shall execute a memorandum of under-
14 standing with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (re-
15 ferred to in this section as the “Commissioner”) for the
16 purpose of transferring primary regulatory oversight of
17 the domestic and import inspection of domestic, wild-
18 caught blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) and flathead cat-
19 fish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) invasive to the Chesapeake Bay
20 ecosystem from the Secretary to the Commissioner, pursu-
21 ant to the authorities of the Commissioner under the Fed-
22 eral Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et
23 seq.), the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (15 U.S.C.
24 1451 et seq.), and the Public Health Service Act (42
25 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

1 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
3 sultation with the Commissioner, shall issue final regula-
4 tions to carry out this section and the amendments made
5 by this section in a manner that ensures that there is no
6 duplication in inspection activities relating to domestic,
7 wild-caught blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) and flathead
8 catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) invasive to the Chesapeake
9 Bay ecosystem.