

Section 1. Short Title

Gives the short title of the “Chesapeake National Recreation Area Act”

Section 2. Definitions.

Provides definitions of the Advisory Commission, the Bay, the Bay Program, Chesapeake Gateways, Map, National Park Service Site, Partner Site, Recreation Area, Secretary, and Youth Representative.

Section 3. Purposes

Provides the purposes of the act, including the recognizing the national significance of the Chesapeake Bay; preserving the Bay’s unique resources; facilitating public access – including by encouraging engagement with communities that have traditionally lacked access to the Bay and telling the stories of those communities which have contributed to the Bay; facilitating stewardship of the Bay; and advancing the conservation goals of existing Bay Programs.

Section 4. Establishment and Boundaries of the CNRA

Lays out the conditions under which the CNRA will be established as a unit of the National Park System. Boundaries are laid out on the map and include two initial anchor sites composed of several smaller parcels in Annapolis, Maryland and one larger parcel, North Beach of Fort Monroe in Hampton Roads, Virginia, which would be administered in coordination with the Secretary of the Army until administrative jurisdiction of the property is transferred to the Secretary of the Interior.

Section 5. Acquisition of Land for the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA)

Describes how the Secretary may acquire land for future expansion of the CNRA. Specifies that additional sites can only be acquired by donation, purchase from a willing seller, exchange, or transfer from another agency and must be evaluated to meet all applicable environmental quality standards. Sites will be selected in consultation with the Advisory Commission and minor adjustments may be made to the boundaries of the map to reflect the inclusion of new sites.

Section 6. Acquisition of Land-Based Resource for the CNRA.

Describes how the Secretary may acquire land-based resources, such as docks, piers, and structures for future use by the CNRA. Such resources can only be acquired by donation, purchase from a willing seller, exchange, or transfer from another agency and must be evaluated to meet all applicable environmental quality standards.

Section 7. Administration

Establishes how the Secretary will administer the CNRA under laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System. A headquarters for the CNRA will be located at the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office. All regulations for the CNRA are land-based and will have no impact on existing water navigation, fishing activities, or State jurisdictions, including their fish and wildlife management efforts. The Secretary shall seek to coordinate programming and activity management of the CNRA with the goals of the Chesapeake Gateways Program and the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, as well as coordinate with participating NPS sites and partner sites to tell the story of the national significance of the Bay.

Section 8. Agreements and Matching Funds

Describes the Cooperative and Partner Site Agreements the Secretary may enter into with sites that will contribute to the initial development of the CNRA and implementation of the CNRA’s general management plan. Specifies that federal funds to facilitate these agreements must be matched 1-to-1 by non-federal funds. The CNRA will not impact any existing cooperative agreements under Chesapeake Gateways. The Advisory Commission will establish any additional criteria for inclusion of future sites in the CNRA. The Secretary is responsible for administering the CNRA. The terms and conditions of these

agreements are described and include maintaining the right of reasonable access to the sites as well as maintaining the sites in the condition in which they were included in the CNRA.

Section 9. Chesapeake Gateways

Establishes that the Superintendent of the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office will administer the Chesapeake Gateways Program in coordination with the CNRA. Permanently authorizes the Chesapeake Gateways Program at \$6 million annually.

Section 10. Management Plan

Sets out the criteria to prepare a management plan for the CNRA that will include cost sharing provisions and will be submitted to Congress.

Section 11. CNRA Advisory Commission

Describes the establishment and role of the CNRA Advisory Commission, which will offer advice to the Secretary on the design and implementation of the management plan and make recommendations for additional partner sites and sites to be added to the CNRA. Specifies the backgrounds and terms of appointment and reappointment for the 19 members of the Commission. Lays out the elected positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and the duties thereof, as well as the procedures of the Commission's meetings, actions, and elections. Establishes that Commission members shall serve without compensation, except for travel reimbursement, and allows the Secretary to hire necessary staff for the Commission to fulfill its duties. If necessary, the Secretary may extend the Commission past its slated lifetime of 10 years.

Section 12. Savings Provision

States that besides revision to the Fort Monroe Boundary, the CNRA Act does not change the administration of any NPS site or partner site.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **Are there any particular sites relevant to the Chesapeake Bay that you believe should be highlighted in this effort?**
- **Are there any other groups that are traditionally associated with the Bay that should be considered as eligible entities to enter into a cooperative agreement?**
- **Are there specific stories about or aspects of the Chesapeake Bay and its history about which the Advisory Board and NPS should know?**

Please share your responses to the discussion questions above or any other feedback on the CNRA proposal, at <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/CNRA>