

THE SECRETARY SHALL TAKE EVERY NECESSARY STEP TO ENACT APPROPRIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES TO PRESERVE THE OPTIMAL STATE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY THROUGH ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERSTATE BODY TO PLAN, MANAGE, COORDINATE, AND ENFORCE THE PROPER USE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, SO EVERY USER OF THE BAY AREA CAN OBTAIN MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THE BAY.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section presently appears as Article 66C, section 2 of the Code. The only changes made are in style.

SUBTITLE 3. INTERSTATE WATER COMPACTS.

8-301. POTOMAC RIVER BASIN COMPACT.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN HAS EXPERIENCED MANY YEARS OF DROUGHT WHICH SEVERELY DAMAGED THE PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE AND DRASTICALLY REDUCED THE FLOW OF THE RIVER WHICH THREATENED THE WATER SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT THE BASIN AND PARTICULARLY IN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA AT THE TIME OF GREATEST DEMAND; AND

WHEREAS, THE FLOW OF THE POTOMAC RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES IS SUBJECT TO DRAMATIC FLUCTUATION AND VARIATION, SO MUCH SO THAT MELTING SNOWS AND SPRING RAINS HAVE PRODUCED COSTLY AND DAMAGING FLOODS EVEN IN YEARS OF MINIMAL SUMMER FLOWS; AND

WHEREAS, THE POPULATION OF THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN AND THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT THEREIN HAVE GREATLY EXPANDED DURING THE LAST DECADE, AND ARE CONTINUING TO EXPAND, INCREASING THE DEMANDS FOR WATER SUPPLY AND THE POTENTIAL FOR LOSS THROUGH FLOODS; AND

WHEREAS, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE MADE NUMEROUS SURVEYS AND REPORTS CONCERNING THE WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN WHICH REVEALED THE URGENT NEED FOR MEASURES TO ASSURE AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY AND FLOOD PROTECTION, TO REDUCE SEDIMENTATION AND OTHERWISE IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE WATERS, TO PROVIDE WATER RELATED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, TO ENHANCE THE PRESERVATION AND PROPAGATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, AND TO PROMOTE RELATED FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATERSHED PROJECTS; AND