

namely, the protection of the valuable wetland areas; and

WHEREAS, The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into ten year agreements with landowners and operators for protection of specified wetlands, effective July 1, 1971; and

WHEREAS, There is a clause allowing renewal for additional ten year periods; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary will reimburse, according to a payment schedule he establishes, those owners and operators that agree not to burn, drain, fill, or otherwise destroy the wetlands areas, and not use such areas for agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, The rate may be increased if the owners or operators agree to permit, without other compensation, public access for hunting, trapping, fishing, and hiking; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary is authorized to share the cost of establishing and maintaining conservation and development practices on the wetlands and adjacent areas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Department of Natural Resources is requested to apply for admission to the Federal Water Bank Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable James B. Coulter, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland, 21404.

Approved March 28, 1974.

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No. 7

(House Joint Resolution 22)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Amendment of the Federal Water Bank Program

FOR the purpose of requesting the Maryland Congressional Delegation to amend the Federal Water Bank Act to include inland fresh wetlands.

WHEREAS, The Water Bank Act of 1970 provides Federal legislation in an area of prime interest to Maryland,