

The Chesapeake Bay

FOR the purpose of establishing and providing for the appointment of a legislative advisory commission which shall invite close cooperation with a counterpart ~~committee~~ commission in the Commonwealth of Virginia to review bistrate and federal activities in the Chesapeake Bay and investigate Bay management alternatives; and directing the commission to make a preliminary report by a certain time; and generally relating to management and coordination of the Chesapeake Bay.

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries and wetlands is a single natural system shared and intensely used by the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Many aspects of Bay use and abuse, including but not limited to injury to water quality, management of migratory fowl, migratory fish, cysters and crabs, and optimal organization of the great commercial shipping interests of the Bay, substantially involve the joint interests of the State and Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation has identified in its 1977 interim report the need for improved coordination in Bay-wide management to meet the long-term needs of the people of both Maryland and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Effective cooperation in and coordination of Bay management has been stressed by the Commission, and in reports by such citizen groups as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Citizens Program for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc., the Citizens League of Baltimore, and the participants in the Bistrate Conference on the Chesapeake Bay, and many other analyses directed toward optimal long-term balance in the management of the Bay; and

WHEREAS, There is not now a single entity for any State or bistrate coordinaticn and management of the Chesapeake Bay; and

Whereas, Appropriate decisions cannot be made about the present and future use of the Port of Baltimore and other Bay Ports until coordination and management of the Bay are determined; and

WHEREAS, Some new mechanism for effective coordination of management is urgently required and must involve the Bay region of Maryland and Virginia with appropriate participation by the federal government, regional commissions and agencies, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, The potentials of such mechanisms as a Bistrate