

## A House Joint Resolution concerning

## Vessels at the Chesapeake Bay Annapolis Anchorage

FOR the purpose of requesting ~~the appointment of a task force to study~~ a study of the impact of vessels at the Chesapeake Bay Annapolis Anchorage on water quality and the surrounding jurisdictions.

WHEREAS, The number of vessels anchored at the Chesapeake Bay Annapolis Anchorage, waiting to enter the Port of Baltimore, has greatly increased as has their length of stay; and

WHEREAS, The number of vessels is likely to increase as will their length of stay at the Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, There have been reports that some of the vessels have discharged raw sewage and bilge water containing petrochemicals into the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, The number of vessels and the increased lengths of stay increase the potential for collision between the ships themselves and between the ships and the Bay Bridges; and

WHEREAS, There are several productive oyster bars in the vicinity of the Anchorage that would be threatened by discharges from the vessels; and

WHEREAS, The City of Annapolis is used as a place for securing provisions and recreation by the seamen; and

WHEREAS, There are inadequate facilities in Annapolis to meet the needs of a large number of foreign seamen, unable to speak English and with limited transportation to and from their ships, causing problems for both the City of Annapolis and the seamen; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That ~~the Legislative--Policy--Committee--is--urged--to--appoint--a--task force--to--study~~ a study be conducted of the impact of vessels at the Chesapeake Bay Annapolis Anchorage on water quality and the surrounding jurisdictions, specifically addressing and making recommendations concerning:

(1) Whether bilge water, containing petrochemicals, and sewage discharges are occurring from the vessels and the impact on the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay;

(2) The adequacy of present State and federal enforcement efforts with regard to illegal discharges from the vessels;

(3) The possibility of the ships colliding with each other or the Bay Bridges while at Anchorage;