

SECTION 15. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED. That:

(a) The Department of the Environment and the Department of Agriculture jointly:

(1) shall review the status of the linked deposit low interest loan program for agricultural conservation and water quality improvement; and

(2) on or before September 29, 2006, shall submit a report to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the level of additional funding that may be needed in order to meet existing and future needs of the loan program.

(b) The General Assembly encourages the Governor to provide additional funds, to the extent available, to the Department of the Environment for fiscal year 2008 to be used to augment the resources that are available to the linked deposit low interest loan program for agricultural conservation and water quality improvement.

SECTION 15. 16. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED. That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2006.

Approved May 2, 2006.

CHAPTER 290**(House Bill 3)**

AN ACT concerning

Veterans Advocacy and Education Act of 2006

FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements for the Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program to include certain children of certain members of the armed forces; altering certain disability criteria under the Program; making stylistic changes; ~~defining a certain term~~; establishing the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship; establishing application requirements for participation in the scholarship; requiring a certain scholarship to supplement certain federal education benefits; providing that each scholarship may be used for certain educational expenses; prohibiting the annual amount of a scholarship from exceeding a certain percentage of the equivalent tuition and certain fees of certain institutions of higher education; requiring a scholarship recipient to maintain a certain grade point average; providing for the duration of the scholarship; requiring funds for the scholarship to be provided in the annual budget of the Maryland Higher Education Commission; ~~requiring that certain funds provided for scholarships be used in subsequent fiscal years under certain circumstances~~; requiring scholarship recipients to file for certain federal and State financial aid by a certain date; prohibiting certain scholarships from being awarded after a certain date; permitting certain scholarships to be renewed after a certain date; authorizing legislative scholarship funds to be used for certain purposes; establishing a