

No. 39

(House Joint Resolution No. 53)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Chesapeake Bay - Nutrient Enrichment

FOR the purpose of requesting certain representatives of the Governor of the State on the Chesapeake Executive Council to develop expand certain plans with certain goals and strategies to address nutrient enrichment of the Chesapeake Bay by a certain date.

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (E.P.A.) Chesapeake Bay Program determined that nutrient enrichment is a major reason for water quality degradation and the decline of living resources in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, The E.P.A.'s Chesapeake Bay Program recommended the development of a basin-wide plan that includes implementation schedules to control nutrients from various sources; and

WHEREAS, The nutrients, phosphorus and nitrogen, are present in excess in the Chesapeake Bay's tributaries and originate from industrial and sewage treatment plants, as well as from agricultural, forest, and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Some tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay clearly have demonstrable nutrient enrichment problems, while other tributaries contribute to nutrient problems through the transport of nutrients to the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Executive Council, through its Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection Plan, established general goals and objectives pertaining to nutrient enrichment; and

WHEREAS, There are a number of strategies which can contribute to control of the problem of nutrient enrichment, including nutrient removal at sewage treatment plants, a phosphate detergent ban, and land management practices to reduce nutrient runoff; and

WHEREAS, The First Biennial Review of the Chesapeake Action Agenda recommended the establishment of specific nutrient load goals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor's representatives to the Chesapeake Executive Council are requested to ~~develop a detailed plan on~~ expand the Chesapeake