

VETOES

the Governors of the basin states and charged with developing an institutional arrangement to adequately manage the water and related land resources of the Potomac River Basin. The Compact is modeled after the existing Delaware River Basin Compact and the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, and provides for comprehensive multistate water resources management and regulation for the entire Potomac River Basin. The Compact was enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 1970 and by the Maryland General Assembly in 1971. The Compact was introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1972, but was never acted upon. West Virginia has refused to introduce the Compact in their legislative program. Since all the states have not acted on the Compact, it is not operative.

As a result of the failure to ratify the Compact by West Virginia and Pennsylvania, the Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee revised the proposed Compact to reduce the area of its jurisdiction and limit it to the drainage area in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The revised Compact was to be entitled "Potomac Water Resources Regional Compact", and was essentially the same as the Potomac River Basin Compact except for its area of jurisdiction. This Compact was submitted to the Maryland General Assembly in 1976 as HB 1031 and failed in committee.

The Department of Natural Resources reports that if the Compact were to become active now it would duplicate most activities of the Water Resources Administration in the Department. The Compact is considered to be no longer useful within the Department's present management and regulatory scheme. The Department of Natural Resources recommends repealing the Potomac River Basin Compact enabling legislation, codified as Natural Resources Article, § 8-301, Preamble and Section 1.01 through Section 15.21, inclusive; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Potomac River Basin Compact is repealed in its entirety, including the Preamble and Sections 1.01 through 15.21, inclusive, of the Compact, all of which is codified in § 8-301 of the Natural Resources Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1987.

June 2, 1987

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
President of the Senate
State House