



Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund

SB 213 / HB 369

Environmental Challenge

During the Special Legislative Session of 2007, Maryland created a dedicated funding source – the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund – to clean up Maryland’s waters and the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund replaced previous proposals for a “Green Fund” and relies on existing tax revenues. The legislature authorized \$50 million annually for clean water programs but did not detail how the monies were to be allocated.

While \$50 million is significant, there must be appropriate oversight and the funds must be targeted and leveraged in order to achieve the greatest nutrient reductions and water quality improvements.

Bill Framework

SB 213 and HB 369 - “Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund and Nonpoint Source Fund” - were introduced by the Administration and Legislative leaders this session. These bills outline a framework for allocating the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund annually based on cost-effective nutrient reductions. The bills codify the Governor’s “BayStat” Program as the mechanism for assessing Chesapeake Bay health and prioritizing 2010 Trust Fund priorities each year. The bills also create a Scientific Advisory Panel to help with BayStat decision-making and provide oversight and accountability on Trust Fund use.

If Enacted

This legislation will detail the plan for leveraging the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund and cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. We expect modest amendments to clarify the intent of the Trust Fund, eligible uses, and strengthen accountability. This legislation will allow Maryland to significantly increase its ability to meet the goals outlined in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.

For more information, please contact:

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