

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 4 through 10, 2017, as "Chesapeake
2 Bay Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is the largest and most
4 productive estuary in the United States, with its watershed
5 spanning six states and the District of Columbia; and

6 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is fed by 50 major tributaries,
7 the largest being the Susquehanna River, which provides 50% of
8 the fresh water to the bay; and

9 WHEREAS, Stretching 200 miles from Havre de Grace, Maryland,
10 to Norfolk, Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay has an average depth of
11 21 feet and ranges from 3.4 to 35 miles wide; and

12 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay supports 348 species of finfish,
13 173 species of shellfish and more than 3,600 species of plant
14 and animal life, including 2,700 types of plants and more than
15 16 species of underwater grasses; and

16 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay produces more than 500 million
17 pounds of seafood harvest each year; and

1 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay's tributaries in this
2 Commonwealth are an important source of drinking water and
3 recreational fishing and boating for this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay watershed covers 64,000 square
5 miles, which encompasses half of this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay watershed is an extraordinary and
7 vital natural resource, with some of the nation's most
8 productive farm and forest lands in this Commonwealth's portion
9 of the watershed; and

10 WHEREAS, This productivity supported the settlement and
11 growth of our nation and is a vital resource for future
12 generations; and

13 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay area is home to more than 17
14 million people, many of whom rely upon the bay for their
15 livelihood and recreational activities; and

16 WHEREAS, The rich history, pivotal economic importance and
17 astounding beauty of the Chesapeake Bay watershed never cease to
18 amaze residents and visitors alike; and

19 WHEREAS, All residents of this Commonwealth are encouraged to
20 commemorate "Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week" with events and
21 educational programs designed to increase awareness of the
22 importance of the Chesapeake Bay to this Commonwealth, the
23 region and the United States; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 week of June 4 through 10, 2017, as "Chesapeake Bay Awareness
26 Week" in Pennsylvania.