



H.R. 5540 – Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

H.R. 5540 is being considered on the floor under a structured rule. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD) on March 5, 2008. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill by voice vote on April 30, 2008. H.R. 5540 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 5, 2008.

H.R. 5540 amends the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act (P.L. 105-312) to permanently authorize funds as may be necessary for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. The Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act requires the National Park Service (NPS) to work with State and local governments and the private sector to provide assistance to communities, museums, historic sites, and natural parks around the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The Congressional Budget Office “estimates that implementing this legislation would cost the National Park Service about \$5 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$1 million a year thereafter.”

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5540 is being considered on the floor under a structured rule. The Rule:

- Provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.
- Waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI.
- Provides that the bill shall be considered as read.
- Waives all points of order against provisions of the bill. This waiver does not affect the point of order available under clause 9 of rule XXI (regarding earmark disclosure).
- Makes in order only the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report if offered by Rep. Bishop of Utah or his designee.
- Provides that the amendment made in order shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for twenty minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House.
- Waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report except for those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI.
- Provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.



- Provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker.

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SUMMARY

H.R. 5540 amends the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act (P.L. 105-312) to permanently authorize funds as may be necessary for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

BACKGROUND

The Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act requires the National Park Service (NPS) to work with State and local governments and the private sector to provide assistance to communities, museums, historic sites, and natural parks around the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The technical and financial assistance provided by the NPS is intended to preserve the Bay's cultural and historic resources, enhance public education and access to the Bay, and create a network of water trails, tour roads, and scenic byways within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act was introduced by Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ) on November 4, 1997, and passed the House by voice vote. The legislation was signed into law by President Clinton on October 30, 1998.

[National Park Service – Chesapeake Bay Initiative](#)

AMENDMENT MADE IN ORDER

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) - Would change the bill's permanent authorization of appropriations to an authorization for five years.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office "estimates that implementing this legislation would cost the National Park Service about \$5 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$1 million a year thereafter."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5540](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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