

S. 1000 – The Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014

Signed into law by President Obama on Thursday, December 18, 2014

Summary prepared December 23, 2014

What does S. 1000 do?

The bill directs the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to develop a detailed financial report on the Chesapeake Bay Program on an annual basis. The bill also requires the appointment of an independent evaluator for restoration activities in Chesapeake Bay watershed.

What will the financial report include?

S. 1000 directs OMB to work with the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC), the chief executive of each Chesapeake Bay jurisdiction, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission to develop a financial report that includes:

- Proposed funding for federal and state Bay restoration activities in the next fiscal year
- Federal and state expenditures for Bay restoration activities for the current and past two fiscal years
- Identification of opportunities to reduce duplication of programs
- An accounting of all funds received and obligated by federal agencies and jurisdictions for restoration activities in the current and preceding fiscal years
- A detailed description of each federal or jurisdictional activity to be carried out in the next fiscal year

Will all activities be covered by the financial report?

S. 1000 requires reporting on activities funded at \$300,000 or more in the first three years of reporting and activities funded at \$100,000 thereafter.

When is the first financial report due?

We believe the first financial report is due on September 30, 2016.

What will the independent evaluator do?

The bill directs the independent evaluator to review and report on restoration activities for the Chesapeake Bay and any related topics suggested by the EC.

Who will select the independent evaluator?

S. 1000 directs the EC, “with the consultation of the scientific community,” to provide nominees for the independent evaluator to the EPA Administrator. The nominations can include “science-based institution[s] of higher education.” The Administrator is directed to appoint the independent evaluator within 30 days of receiving the EC’s nominations.

When is the first independent evaluation report due?

The first independent evaluation report is due 180 days after the independent evaluator is appointed and every two years thereafter. The bill sets no deadline for the submission of nominees by the EC.