

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

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1999 Regular Session  
9lr2166

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By: **Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **South Mountain Battlefield Historic Tourism Initiative Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the South Mountain Battlefield  
4 Historic Tourism Initiative; providing for the membership of the Task Force;  
5 specifying the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the  
6 General Assembly and the Governor on or before a certain day; and generally  
7 relating to the creation of a Task Force on the South Mountain Battlefield  
8 Historic Tourism Initiative.

9 WHEREAS, On September 14, 1862, the Union and the Confederate forces  
10 fought a fierce battle over a 7 mile stretch of the South Mountain Range which was  
11 the first major Civil War battle in the State; and

12 WHEREAS, The results of that fateful day helped to shape the events and the  
13 outcome of the Battle of Antietam that was fought 3 days later; and

14 WHEREAS, The State wishes to forever remember the ultimate sacrifice made  
15 by those brave soldiers, their families, and their communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources, the Central Maryland  
17 Heritage League, the Friends of Washington Monument State Park, county and  
18 municipal government, tourism offices, private landowners, and others have worked  
19 closely in protecting and managing lands and interpreting Civil War events within  
20 the historical boundaries of the South Mountain Battlefield; and

21 WHEREAS, It is fitting and right to provide Maryland's citizens and visitors to  
22 this State an opportunity to see, to learn, and to appreciate the important role that  
23 the Battle of South Mountain played in this Country's history; and

24 WHEREAS, Promotion of this important battle in American history will  
25 encourage tourism in Frederick County and Washington County; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the State  
27 of Maryland strongly supports the Department of Natural Resources' effort to study  
28 the establishment of a State park at South Mountain that encompasses the battlefield  
29 known as South Mountain, including Turner's Gap, Fox's Gap, and Crampton's Gap;  
30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a Task Force on the South Mountain Battlefield Historic  
2 Tourism Initiative be established to assist the Department of Natural Resources in  
3 studying the establishment of a State park at South Mountain and to ascertain the  
4 efficacy of establishing a State park at South Mountain; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of:

6 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
7 House, and two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

8 (2) One representative from the Department of Natural Resources, appointed  
9 by the Governor;

10 (3) One representative from the Department of Transportation, appointed by  
11 the Governor;

12 (4) One representative from the business community of Washington County;  
13 and

14 (5) One representative from the business community of Frederick County; and  
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Governor designate the chairman of the Task Force from  
17 among the members of the Task Force; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be staffed by the Department of Natural  
19 Resources; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings to the Governor and  
21 the General Assembly on or before January 19, 2000; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
23 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;  
24 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the  
25 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable  
26 David P. Gray, President, Board of County Commissioners, Frederick County; and the  
27 Honorable Gregory I. Snook, President, Board of County Commissioners, Washington  
28 County.