

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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2003 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Haines, Brinkley, Della, Hafer, Hooper, Kittleman, and Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **State Highways - Hampstead Bypass**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Governor to direct the Secretary of Transportation to
4 bring to its full conclusion a National Environmental Policy Act environmental
5 impact statement process on the Hampstead Bypass and carry that process
6 through to a Record of Decision as prescribed by law; and urging the Governor to
7 provide funding in the Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program for
8 construction of the Hampstead Bypass.

9 WHEREAS, New road and highway construction in suburban Maryland has
10 lagged significantly behind both population and job growth over the past several
11 decades; and

12 WHEREAS, Traffic congestion in the Baltimore Metropolitan region,
13 particularly in Carroll County, has dramatically worsened in recent years; and

14 WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of Transportation has indicated that
15 Md. Route 30, the principal north-south roadway in Carroll County is currently
16 operating at a level of service that is indicative of heavy congestion with motorists
17 typically waiting more than one signal cycle length to pass through signalized
18 intersections; and

19 WHEREAS, Accident rates on Md. Route 30 are significantly higher than the
20 statewide average rates for similar type highways and are more than twice the rate
21 expected on a two-lane roadway with partial access control, as is proposed for the
22 Hampstead Bypass; and

23 WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of Transportation expects a 20%
24 increase in traffic volumes over the next 20 years on Md. Route 30, with volumes
25 exceeding capacity by as much as 58% in Hampstead; and

26 WHEREAS, With an increase in traffic volume, both congestion and the number
27 of accidents are expected to increase; and

28 WHEREAS, Improvements to Md. Route 30, which accommodates north-south
29 traffic through Hampstead, are necessary to accommodate safely and efficiently, and

1 in an environmentally responsible manner, existing and projected traffic volumes in
2 the Hampstead area and to reduce traffic volumes on existing Md. Route 30 through
3 Hampstead to enable the Town to pursue its "Main Street Revitalization Plan"; and

4 WHEREAS, Construction of the Hampstead Bypass is the best way to alleviate
5 current and projected traffic congestion on Md. Route 30 through the Hampstead
6 area, improving safety and complementing revitalization and economic growth
7 measures in Hampstead; and

8 WHEREAS, The Carroll County Master Plan and the Hampstead and Environs
9 Comprehensive Plan incorporate the concept of a western bypass of Hampstead; and

10 WHEREAS, The Hampstead Bypass is the highest transportation priority of
11 Carroll County elected officials; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
13 General Assembly urges the Governor to direct the Secretary of Transportation to
14 bring to its full conclusion a National Environmental Policy Act environmental impact
15 statement process on the Hampstead Bypass and carry that process through to a
16 Record of Decision as prescribed by law; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the Governor to provide funding
18 in the Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program for construction of the
19 Hampstead Bypass; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
21 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
22 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
23 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.