
By: **Delegates Healey, Conroy, Frush, Gaines, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, Kelley, Menes, Moe, Parker, Patterson, Proctor, Ramirez, Ross, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Individuals with Disabilities - Equal Employment Opportunities**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing the State's commitment to equal employment
4 opportunities for individuals with disabilities; requesting the Department of
5 Disabilities to work with other State agencies and the U.S. Equal Opportunity
6 Commission to identify certain practices affecting certain individuals with
7 disabilities, eliminate barriers to equal employment for Maryland citizens with
8 disabilities, and enumerate certain employment practices used by the State of
9 Maryland for the benefit of other state governments around the nation; and
10 generally relating to equal employment opportunities for individuals with
11 disabilities.

12 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland and the United States are committed to the
13 principle of equal opportunity for all citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, More than 54 million Americans have disabilities; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities can further benefit from the promise of
16 equal opportunity; and

17 WHEREAS, In February 2001, President George W. Bush announced the New
18 Freedom Initiative as a comprehensive national strategy for promoting equal
19 participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of the nation's social and
20 economic life; and

21 WHEREAS, Access to employment is key to accomplishing the goals of the New
22 Freedom Initiative and improving the lives of Maryland citizens with disabilities;

23 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland wishes to work in partnership with the
24 United States Equal Opportunity Commission to promote employment opportunities
25 for individuals with disabilities; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the
27 Department of Disabilities should work with other appropriate State agencies and the
28 U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission to: (1) identify best practices affecting

1 individuals with disabilities who are State employees or who are applicants for State
2 employment; (2) eliminate barriers to equal employment for Maryland citizens with
3 disabilities; and (3) enumerate best employment practices used by the State of
4 Maryland for the benefit of other state governments around the nation; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
7 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
8 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
9 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Commissioners
10 of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; the Maryland Congressional
11 Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office
12 Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A.
13 Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton
14 Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.,
15 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.