
By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2005

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Radio Amateurs - Commendation and Encouragement**

3 FOR the purpose of encouraging the State to enhance the development of the amateur
4 radio service; commending radio amateurs for their contribution to technical
5 progress and for providing emergency radio communication in times of disaster;
6 encouraging reasonable accommodation for effective amateur radio operation;
7 encouraging governmental regulation to facilitate and encourage amateur radio
8 operation; and generally relating to support of radio amateurs.

9 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has expressed the need to
10 promote safety of life and protection of property through the use of radio
11 communications and has established a framework for regulation of radio
12 communications; and

13 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States, in 1994, passed a Senate Joint
14 Resolution to recognize the achievements of, and establish support for, radio
15 amateurs as national policy, and that Resolution became Public Law No. 103-408;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has set forth in Title 47,
18 Part 97 of the Code of Federal Regulations that among the basic purposes of the
19 amateur radio service are to provide voluntary, noncommercial radio service,
20 particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, to improve the
21 amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the
22 communication and technical phases, to expand the existing reservoir within the
23 amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts, and
24 to extend the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill; and

25 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that members of the amateur radio
26 service community have provided invaluable emergency radio communication
27 services in the State and across the United States before, during, and after floods,
28 hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earthquakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical
29 spills, and other disasters; and

30 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that members of the amateur radio
31 service community continually train, and promote readiness, for times of emergency
32 and disaster; and

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that amateur radio service has made a
2 contribution to our nation's communications by its crafting of the first Earth satellite
3 licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in 1961, by its proof-of-concept
4 for search-and-rescue satellites, and by its continued exploration of the low Earth
5 orbit; and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that amateur radio service provides
7 continued advancements to our nation's communications by its pioneering of
8 communications using reflections from meteor trails, a technique now used for certain
9 government and commercial communications, and by its leading role in the
10 development of low-cost, practical data transmission by radio that is increasingly put
11 to extensive use in land mobile service; and

12 WHEREAS, The amateur radio community endeavors with difficulty to enlist
13 and retain new members and is finding it ever more difficult to practice the craft due
14 to stringent public and private regulation of transmission and receiving devices; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State
17 should continue to enhance the development of the amateur radio service as a public
18 benefit by adopting and promoting regulations that encourage the use of new
19 technologies within the amateur radio service; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That radio amateurs are commended for their contributions to
21 technical progress in electronics and for providing emergency radio communications
22 in times of disaster; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective
24 operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles, and public areas and
25 that regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur
26 radio operation as a public benefit; and be it further

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