

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Joint Resolution 6 (Senator Mathias, *et al.*)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

**Business and Economic Development - NASA Wallops Flight Facility -
Commercial Rocket Boosters and Spacecraft**

This joint resolution urges the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to conduct an environmental impact study related to landing commercial booster rockets and spacecraft at its Wallops Flight Facility.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with this joint resolution does not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None. Local governments are not directly affected.

Small Business Effect: None. Small businesses are not directly affected.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Wallops Flight Facility is a rocket launch site and research center that is owned and managed by NASA. It is located on Virginia's Eastern Shore, approximately five miles from Maryland's border. The facility is one of only a few locations in the United States licensed to launch orbital spacecraft.

Advances in technology are rapidly leading to the ability to reliably land and reuse commercial booster rockets. The U.S. Air Force is currently conducting an environmental impact study related to landing certain booster rockets at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

A similar joint resolution is under consideration by the Virginia Legislature.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, HJ 7 (Delegates Adams and Otto - Rules and Executive Nominations) is not identical.

Information Source(s): National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2015
md/rhh

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