

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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6lr0044

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request
– Departmental – Planning)**

Requested: October 5, 2015

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: January 26, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Patuxent River Watershed – Amendment of Patuxent River Policy Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of approving a certain amendment to the Patuxent River Policy Plan;
4 resolving that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative
5 Services to certain individuals; and generally relating to the amendment of the
6 Patuxent River Policy Plan.

7 WHEREAS, Section 5–812 of the State Finance and Procurement Article establishes
8 the Patuxent River Commission; and

9 WHEREAS, As referenced in § 5–801(c) of the State Finance and Procurement
10 Article, the Commission, the local governments represented on the Commission, and the
11 Maryland General Assembly approved the original Patuxent River Policy Plan in 1984 in
12 order to serve as a policy guide for the Commission, State agencies, and local governments
13 in carrying out programs in the Patuxent River watershed; and

14 WHEREAS, Sections 5–805 and 5–806 of the State Finance and Procurement Article
15 provide that the Commission and the Maryland Department of Planning shall periodically
16 review and evaluate pertinent information, trends, and issues regarding the Patuxent
17 River watershed in light of the Plan and the Commission’s activities; and

18 WHEREAS, Sections 5–805 and 5–806 of the State Finance and Procurement Article
19 also provide procedures for updating the Plan by amendment and require that both the
20 Commission and at least 6 of the 8 local jurisdictions with voting representation on the

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.



1 Commission must approve any amendments to the Plan before submission of the
2 amendments to the General Assembly for approval; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1997, the Commission, the local governments represented on the
4 Commission, and the Maryland General Assembly approved certain amendments updating
5 the Plan; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental
7 Service's Chesapeake Bay Report Card, the ecosystem health of the Patuxent River is in
8 poor condition; and

9 WHEREAS, In spite of the river's water quality challenges, the Patuxent River
10 remains an important piece of Maryland's natural heritage, providing a variety of habitats
11 from cold-water trout streams to tidal wetlands and supporting more than 100 species of
12 fish and shellfish, including oysters, blue crabs, striped bass, catfish, chain pickerel, and
13 bluefish; and

14 WHEREAS, The Patuxent River holds the promise for increased abundance and
15 diversity of living resources, along with clean, swimmable waters, which would support
16 increased tourism, recreation, fisheries, quality of life, and economic development in
17 Maryland; and

18 WHEREAS, The Plan's role is to guide local jurisdictions and the State in preserving
19 and restoring the Patuxent River, raising awareness of Patuxent River ecology through
20 advocacy, and creating excitement among the citizenry about the opportunities for
21 interaction with the Patuxent River; and

22 WHEREAS, Approval of the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan Update, as an
23 amendment to the Plan, will invigorate local and State river restoration efforts; and

24 WHEREAS, In May 2014, the Commission approved the 2015 Patuxent River Policy
25 Plan Update as an amendment to the Plan; and

26 WHEREAS, The 8 local jurisdictions with voting representation on the Commission
27 have approved the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan Update in accordance with § 5-805(c)
28 of the State Finance and Procurement Article as an amendment to the Plan; and

29 WHEREAS, The General Assembly agrees with and approves of the 2015 Patuxent
30 River Policy Plan Update as an amendment to the Plan; and

31 WHEREAS, On approval by the General Assembly, the Plan, as amended by the
32 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan Update, is to serve as a policy guide for the Commission,
33 State agencies, and local governments in enhancing restoration and protection of the
34 Patuxent River watershed; now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, effective
36 immediately on approval of this Joint Resolution, the General Assembly hereby approves

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1 the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan update as an amendment to the Patuxent River Policy
2 Plan; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
4 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
5 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable
6 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; David R. Craig, Secretary of
7 Planning; and Michael Leszcz, Chair of the Patuxent River Commission.

Approved:

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.