

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Unofficial Copy
Q2

1996 Regular Session
6lr1617

By: Delegate Arnick

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 1996

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Balanced Tax Structure - Task Force to Study**

3 FOR the purpose of creating an executive-legislative task force to study the State's tax
4 structure; requiring the task force to develop certain recommendations; and
5 generally relating to an executive-legislative task force to study the State's tax
6 structure.

7 WHEREAS, The overall state and local tax burden for Maryland as a percent of
8 personal income is below the national average and ranks the state 35th;and

9 WHEREAS, The existing state and local tax structure is heavily weighted towards
10 the individual income tax which places Maryland at a disadvantage when competing with
11 neighboring states for economic development opportunities; and

12 WHEREAS, A more balanced tax structure would involve reduced dependence on
13 the income tax and greater dependence on other tax sources; and

14 WHEREAS, Reductions in federal grants will place greater burdens on the State
15 and on local governments and will limit the extent to which they can reduce taxes without
16 adversely impacting vital governmental services such as education, public safety, and
17 assistance to individuals in need; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
19 Governor, the President, and the Speaker are requested to create an executive-legislative
20 task force on a balanced tax structure to review the existing state and local tax structures
21 and develop recommendations that will reduce the dependence of the State and local
22 governments on the individual income tax by utilizing other tax sources; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the task force be composed of 11 members as follows:

24 (1) Five members, including the chairman, appointed by the Governor.

25 (2) Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate.

26 (3) Three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
27 House of Delegates; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Department of Fiscal Services, with assistance from the
29 Comptroller's Office, the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, and the
30 Department of Assessments and Taxation, shall provide staff support to the task force;
31 and be it further

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2

1 RESOLVED, That the task force shall submit its findings and recommendations to
2 the Governor and to the President and the Speaker not later than November 1, 1996; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That notice of each meeting of the task force shall be made public by
5 delivering a copy of the meeting notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room B-6,
6 Department of Legislative Reference, Legislative Services Building, 90 State Circle,
7 Annapolis, MD 21401-1991 at least 10 days before any scheduled meeting of the task
8 force; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
10 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the
11 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
12 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.