

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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H1

1996 Regular Session  
6lr2983

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**By: Delegates Guns, McHale, and Rawlings**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 5, 1996

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

**2 Port of Baltimore and Related Waterways - Dredging Maintenance and Improvement**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing the importance of shipping to the State and its economy,  
4 and the need for maintenance and improvement of the Port of Baltimore, the  
5 Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and shipping lanes in the Chesapeake Bay; urging  
6 certain governmental agencies to study, develop, and implement a certain long-term  
7 strategy for maintenance and improvement of certain waterways, including certain  
8 beneficial use projects in certain areas; and generally relating to maintenance and  
9 improvement dredging for the State's shipping lanes.

10 WHEREAS, The shipping industry is a major component of Maryland's  
11 infrastructure, essential to the continuing economic well-being of the State; and

12 WHEREAS, There are both immediate and long-term needs for maintaining and  
13 expanding the draft and capacity of shipping lanes in the waters of the State, including  
14 the approaches to the Port of Baltimore, the mainstem of the Chesapeake Bay, and the  
15 Chesapeake and Delaware Canal; and

16 WHEREAS, In order to ensure the ongoing importance of the Port of Baltimore to  
17 the State, and to bolster the position of the Port in the State's economy, Maryland needs  
18 to develop and implement a far-reaching strategy for maintenance of those major  
19 shipping channels of the State; and

20 WHEREAS, The most pressing issue in the maintenance of approaches to the Port  
21 of Baltimore and our other shipping channels is the availability of adequate capacity for  
22 placement of material dredged in maintenance operations, both in the next few years and  
23 for many years to come; and

24 WHEREAS, Clean dredge material is appropriate for beneficial use in restoration  
25 of historic islands and wildlife habitats, and coastline protection; and

26 WHEREAS, Projected costs for current beneficial use proposals, such as the Poplar  
27 Island restoration, are extremely high, based on the distance of the restoration proposals  
28 from areas where maintenance dredging is needed; and

29 WHEREAS, The timely availability of capacity in current beneficial use proposals  
30 critically depends on permitting processes that are complex, overlapping, and subject to  
31 delay; and

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1 WHEREAS, There exist in the upper reaches of the Chesapeake Bay at least two  
2 sites that would readily support beneficial uses of clean dredge material, reestablishing  
3 islands for recreational use and coastline protection; and

4 WHEREAS, These island restoration beneficial use projects in the upper  
5 Chesapeake Bay, closer to dredging areas near Baltimore and in the Chesapeake and  
6 Delaware Canal, would present far more cost-effective and fiscally responsible  
7 alternatives to current identified beneficial use proposals, while providing adequate  
8 capacity to meet the dredging needs of the Port of Baltimore, upper Baychannels, and  
9 the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, for decades to come; and

10 WHEREAS, The major impediment to the timely development of at least two  
11 island restoration sites in the upper Chesapeake Bay, as for the current beneficial use  
12 proposals, is the multiplicity of permitting processes involved among several agencies of  
13 the federal and State governments; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
15 General Assembly formally recognizes the importance of shipping to the State, and the  
16 critical need to develop and implement a comprehensive long-term strategy for  
17 maintaining and improving the approaches to the Port of Baltimore, the shipping  
18 channels of the Chesapeake Bay, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal; and be it  
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the appropriate federal, State, and  
21 local governments and their agencies to cooperate fully in exploring the options available  
22 for beneficial use and containment of clean dredge material in at least two island  
23 restoration projects in the upper Chesapeake Bay, and in the development and  
24 implementation of the comprehensive long-term maintenance and improvement strategy  
25 for approaches to the Port of Baltimore, the shipping channels of the Chesapeake Bay,  
26 and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly also urges the appropriate federal, State,  
28 and local governments and their agencies to act speedily to identify and permit sites in the  
29 upper Chesapeake Bay for the beneficial use and containment of clean dredge material;  
30 and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
32 Legislative Reference to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United  
33 States, White House, Washington, D.C. 20500; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
35 Legislative Reference to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.  
36 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and  
37 Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert  
38 R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, and Constance A. Morella, House  
39 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and be it further

40 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
41 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the  
42 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable  
43 Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable Louis L.

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- 1 Goldstein, Comptroller of Maryland; the Honorable Richard N. Dixon, Treasurer of
- 2 Maryland; the Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke, Mayor of Baltimore City; the Honorable C.A.
- 3 Dutch Ruppertsberger, Baltimore County Executive; and the Honorable Oakley A.
- 4 Sumpter, Jr., President, Cecil County Commissioners.