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**By: Senator Dorman**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 1996

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RESOLUTION NO.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Higher Education - Shortening Time to Degree**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Maryland Higher Education Commission to conduct  
4 a study of the time it takes to earn a degree, including a review of possible  
5 incentives and strategies that could shorten the time to degree; and requesting the  
6 Commission to report to the Governor and General Assembly by a certain date.

7 WHEREAS, A growing number of college students are taking longer than 4 years to  
8 complete a baccalaureate, which is generating interest in shortening the time it takes to  
9 earn a degree; and

10 WHEREAS, Reducing time to degree is viewed as one way to reduce the cost of  
11 college, cope with fiscal constraints, provide access to higher education for additional  
12 students, and produce more graduates in less time; and

13 WHEREAS, The issue of time to degree has particular relevance in Maryland,  
14 where just 24 percent of the freshmen who enter a public four-year college or university  
15 graduate within 4 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Numerous factors have been identified as affecting time to degree,  
17 including student preparation for college work, poor job prospects, inability to register for  
18 needed courses, and the desire of campuses to maximize revenues deriving from  
19 enrollments; and

20 WHEREAS, A number of other states have implemented strategies, both  
21 legislatively as well as administratively, to shorten the time it takes to earn a bachelor's  
22 degree; and

23 WHEREAS, Strategies implemented in other states have included limiting the  
24 number of credits required for a degree as well as providing financial rewards to students  
25 or institutions, for graduating, or having students graduate, within 4 years; and

RESOLUTION NO.

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1           WHEREAS, It is time to review the many viable options for shortening the time it  
2 takes students to graduate and develop incentives and strategies that can be implemented  
3 in Maryland; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
5 Maryland Higher Education Commission undertake a study of the issues associated with  
6 the amount of time it takes to earn a degree at Maryland colleges and universities,  
7 including a review of all viable incentives and strategies, and report its findings and  
8 recommendations to the General Assembly and Governor by December 31, 1996, as  
9 provided in § 2-1312 of the State Government Article.

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