

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Unofficial Copy
O1

1997 Regular Session
7r3029

By: Delegates Menes and Montague (Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse)

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Drug Treatment and Employment**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force to Study the Treatment and Employment of
4 Drug Abusers and Addicts; specifying the composition, duties, and staff of the Task
5 Force; providing for the termination of the Task Force; and generally relating to
6 drug abuse and drug addiction.

7 WHEREAS, The problems associated with drug addiction and substance abuse are
8 far reaching and affect all segments of our society; and

9 WHEREAS, Drugs are at the core of the most serious crimes in our State, increase
10 the risk of family and community disintegration, cause public safety problems, foster
11 academic failure, are a direct cause of homelessness, unemployment, and violence, and
12 are generally a disincentive to Maryland's economic development initiatives; and

13 WHEREAS, The destructive affects of drug addiction are especially critical among
14 those who must find work as a result of the Welfare Reform Act of 1996; and

15 WHEREAS, The General Assembly realizes that drug dependency is a barrier to
16 finding and maintaining employment and that the State has a fiscal responsibility and a
17 moral imperative to do everything in its power to put drug addicts back to work; and

18 WHEREAS, Studies show that the treatment of drug abusers will significantly
19 reduce violence and other crimes, as well as enhance job performance, slow the spread of
20 HIV, and save health care and public safety dollars; and

21 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the important work of the Greater
22 Baltimore Committee in developing and implementing a public strategy known as "Smart
23 on Crime"; and

24 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to build upon the Greater Baltimore
25 Committee's work by developing a partnership with representatives from all segments of
26 the community to devise a strategy that utilizes the State's limited public resources to
27 combat drug addiction in a strategic and cost-effective way; now, therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there
29 shall be a Task Force on Drug Treatment and Employment; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall:

31 (1) study treatment options for drug abusers and drug addicts;

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2

1 (2) study the obstacles facing former drug abusers and drug addicts in
2 securing and maintaining meaningful employment; and

3 (3) produce a report recommending the ways in which the State can most
4 effectively utilize its resources to reduce the amount of drug abuse and addiction, and
5 turn former drug abusers and drug addicts into productive members of the State's work
6 force; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Task Force consists of the following members:

8 (1) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

9 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
10 the House;

11 (3) one member of the Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court
12 of Appeals;

13 (4) one member who is a health occupations professional, appointed by the
14 Governor;

15 (5) one member representing the business community, appointed by the
16 Governor;

17 (6) one member who is a law enforcement officer, appointed by the
18 Governor;

19 (7) four members who represent drug addiction and abuse programs, at
20 least three of whom are affiliated with the Greater Baltimore Committee's "Smart on
21 Crime" program, appointed by the Governor;

22 (8) one member who is a social services provider, appointed by the
23 Governor; and

24 (9) one member representing the public, appointed by the Governor; and be
25 it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be staffed by the Department of Legislative
27 Reference; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue its report on or before December 31,
29 1997; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That, after issuing its report, the Task Force shall terminate; and be
31 it further

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