

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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1997 Regular Session
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By: Senators Bromwell, Boozer, Craig, and Amoss

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 1997

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force on the Maryland Wine Industry**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to establish a Task Force on the Maryland
4 Wine Industry to study the impact of the industry on the State and the desirability
5 of enacting legislation that would provide economic and marketing assistance to the
6 industry to promote the growth and vitality of the industry; providing for the
7 composition and staffing of the Task Force; requiring a report to the Governor and
8 General Assembly by a certain date; and generally providing for a Task Force on
9 the Maryland Wine Industry.

10 WHEREAS, The Maryland Wine Industry historically has been a significant part of
11 the State's agricultural economy; and

12 WHEREAS, The Maryland Wine Industry attracts regional and national attention
13 to Maryland through the production of award-winning wines; and

14 WHEREAS, The process of wine making requires large investments of capital and
15 commitments of financial resources to ensure quality wines; and

16 WHEREAS, Vineyards promote the State's goal of providing open spaces and
17 green spaces; and

18 WHEREAS, The soil conditions and climate found in Maryland are beneficial for
19 the production of world class wines; and

20 WHEREAS, The State can improve its ability to attract new vineyards and wineries
21 by establishing programs to assist in the attraction and retention of wineries; and

22 WHEREAS, Wineries are tourist attractions bringing out-of-state residents into
23 Maryland and generating economic tourist activity; now, therefore, be it

24 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the
25 Governor is requested to establish a Task Force on the Maryland Wine Industry to study
26 the impact of the wine industry on the State and the feasibility and desirability of enacting
27 legislation to improve the economic, market, and legislative environments for Maryland's
28 wine industry; and be it further

29 **RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall:

30 (1) Analyze the impact of the Maryland Wine Industry on:

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- 1 (i) the State's economy;
- 2 (ii) the State's agricultural industry;
- 3 (iii) the State's tourism industry; and
- 4 (iv) the State's efforts to promote open spaces and green spaces, and
- 5 prevent suburban sprawl;

6 (2) Compare efforts in other states to promote wine growing in these states;

7 and

8 (3) Develop recommendations to establish programs within the Department

9 of Economic and Business Development, the Department of Agriculture, and other

10 relevant agencies, that would promote the health and growth of the Maryland Wine

11 Industry; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of:

13 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of

14 the Senate;

15 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of

16 the House;

17 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, or the Secretary's

18 designee;

19 (4) The following members appointed by the Governor:

20 (i) Two representatives of the Department of Business and Economic

21 Development with experience in financing programs and the tourism industry;

22 (ii) One representative from the Association of Maryland Wineries;

23 (iii) One representative from the Maryland Tourism Council;

24 (iv) One representative from the general public with demonstrated

25 experience in agriculture, wine making, or tourism;

26 (v) One representative of the Maryland Grape Growers Association;

27 and

28 (vi) One representative of the Maryland Wine and Grape Advisory

29 Board; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be staffed by the Department of Business

31 and Economic Development and the Department of Agriculture; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report to the Governor and, in accordance

33 with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before

34 December 1, 1997; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of

36 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the

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- 1 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
- 2 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.