HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6 SECOND PRINTING

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RESOLUTION NO._____

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2	Commission to Study Single-Member Legislative Districting for the General
3	Assembly

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Study Single-Member

5 Legislative Districting for the General Assembly; providing for the membership

6 of the Commission; providing for the appointment of the chairmen chairman and

7 for the staffing of the Commission; requiring the Commission to study the

8 feasibility and desirability of establishing single-member legislative districts for

9 the General Assembly and to submit a report of its findings and

10 recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly by a certain

11 date; and generally relating to the establishment of a Commission to Study

12 Single-Member Legislative Districting for the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, Evidence suggests that citizens increasingly are becomingalienated from their government; and

WHEREAS, It is in government's interest to connect more closely with itscitizens and to engage citizens in the critical issues facing our State and nation; and

17 WHEREAS, A citizenry that has the opportunity to interact more directly with

18 its elected representatives likely will help foster a climate of cooperative engagement

19 that allows government to address in a more effective manner the critical issues

20 facing society; and

WHEREAS, Oftentimes the sheer geographical size of legislative districts
 precludes direct interaction between citizens and their elected representatives; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Maryland currently provides that each State

2 legislative district contain one senator and three delegates, and that the delegate

3 districts may be subdivided into three single-member districts or one single-member

4 district and one two-member district; and

5 WHEREAS, Currently in Maryland, in 34 of the 47 State legislative districts the 6 three members of the House of Delegates of those districts are elected at-large; in 10 7 legislative districts, the House members are elected from a combination of 8 single-member districts and two-member districts; and in only three of those 9 legislative districts are the House members subdivided into three single-member 10 districts; and

WHEREAS, Some 38 states currently have only single-member state legislativedistricts; and

WHEREAS, The year 2000 census is near and, subsequent to the census, the
General Assembly must redistrict the State legislature for the year 2002 elections;
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there shall
be a Commission to Study Single-Member Legislative Districting for the General
Assembly to assess the feasibility and desirability of proposing that the voters of the
State consider a Constitutional amendment instituting a system of single-member

20 legislative districts for the General Assembly; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Commission be composed of the following 11 members:

(1) Three Six members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed
by the Speaker of the House, with one two of the appointees being a member members
of the minority party designated by the Minority Leader;

25 (2) Three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the 26 President, with one of the appointees being a member of the minority party

27 designated by the Minority Leader; and

28 (3) (2) Five members appointed by the Governor, reflecting a broad 29 spectrum of individuals from government, the academic community, public interest 30 groups, and the general public from throughout the State who possess interest and

31 knowledge about civic issues; and be it further

<u>RESOLVED</u>, That the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate
 <u>each</u> shall designate a cochairman the Chairman of the Commission; and be it further

34 <u>RESOLVED</u>, That the Department of Legislative Services provide staff for the
 35 <u>Commission; and be it further</u>

36 RESOLVED, That the members of the Commission serve without compensation,

37 but may be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with the Standard State Travel

38 Regulations; and be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That the Commission report its findings and recommendations to

2 the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to

3 the General Assembly by December 1, 1999; and be it further

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

5 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;

6 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and

 $7\;$ the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.