

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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1998 Regular Session  
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By: **Senators Miller, Blount, Boozer, and Hoffman**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Maryland Higher Education - Maryland Charter for Higher Education**  
3 **Governance, Coordination, and Funding of the University System of**  
4 **Maryland**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing a task force to study the governance, coordination,  
6 and funding of the University System of Maryland; providing for the  
7 membership of the task force; providing for certain notice procedures for  
8 meetings of the task force; providing for a certain report; and generally relating  
9 to a task force to study the governance, coordination, and funding of the  
10 University System of Maryland.

11 WHEREAS, Nearly 10 years have passed since the General Assembly and  
12 Governor created the Maryland Charter for Higher Education; and

13 WHEREAS, A major State recession in the early 1990's dramatically affected  
14 funding for higher education and only now, despite the strong efforts of the Governor  
15 and General Assembly for four years, is public higher education funding back to its  
16 pre-recession level and a more stable funding source is necessary to meet the goals of  
17 the Charter; and

18 WHEREAS, The duties and potential overlap of the Maryland Higher Education  
19 Commission, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, and the  
20 presidents of the constituent institutions of the University System, deserve review in  
21 light of the experience gained since 1988 and the State's continuing interest in a  
22 public higher education system with the accountability necessary to achieve a highly  
23 skilled and productive workforce; and

24 WHEREAS, An examination of the State's funding priorities to broaden and  
25 sustain the national reputation of public higher education in Maryland, including its  
26 flagship university, historically Black institutions, research institutions, and the  
27 comprehensive institutions, should be undertaken; and

28 WHEREAS, In order to meet the changing role of higher education for Maryland  
29 citizens, it is necessary to review the State's fiscal and licensure policies towards  
30 emerging electronic education, distance education, and other nontraditional delivery  
31 mechanisms of instruction and training in both credit and noncredit, profit and  
32 nonprofit, public and private colleges and universities; and

1 WHEREAS, The University System of Maryland was founded in order to reduce  
2 unnecessary expenditures and duplication and to enhance both management  
3 accountability and academic achievement; and

4 WHEREAS, The University System of Maryland today costs more than \$10  
5 million per year and potentially duplicates many of the functions existing within its  
6 constituent institutions, and may require changes to enhance the ability of the  
7 institutions to respond efficiently and effectively to the needs of the workforce in a  
8 high technology environment; and

9 WHEREAS, Within this context of changing technology and educational needs it  
10 is critical to review those functions and costs of the Maryland Higher Education  
11 Commission and the University System of Maryland; and

12 WHEREAS, There is a marked disparity in funding per full-time equivalent  
13 undergraduate students among the University System of Maryland institutions as  
14 well as between University System of Maryland institutions and other public  
15 comprehensive institutions outside the University System of Maryland; and

16 WHEREAS, Subsequent to the formation of the University System of Maryland,  
17 two research institutions have been established, general fund support for University  
18 College and a revised community college formula have been enacted, and student  
19 financial aid programs have been enhanced without major funding increases to other  
20 undergraduate institutions; and

21 WHEREAS, The system and base level funding required to afford all Maryland  
22 undergraduate students a quality education should be reviewed; and

23 WHEREAS, It is necessary that each of our public universities are held  
24 accountable to students, parents, taxpayers, and those who make educational policy;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Streamlining the organizational chart of the University System of  
27 Maryland may result in greater efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability; now,  
28 therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
30 General Assembly and Governor establish a task force to study the governance,  
31 coordination, and funding of the University System of Maryland; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the task force consider methods to increase the prominence of  
33 the University System of Maryland's constituent institutions nationally and  
34 internationally, the efficiency of the delivery of higher education services to Maryland  
35 citizens, and other issues related generally to governance, coordination, and funding  
36 of the University System of Maryland; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the task force be composed of:

38 (1) Three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
39 President of the Senate;

- 1                   (2)     Three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
2 of the House;
- 3                   (3)     The Secretary of Higher Education;
- 4                   (4)     The President of the University of Maryland, College Park or a  
5 designee of that President;
- 6                   (5)     The President of Towson University or a designee of that President;
- 7                   (6)     The President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore or a  
8 designee of that President;
- 9                   (7)     The President of Frostburg State University or a designee of that  
10 President;
- 11                  (8)     One member of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents;
- 12                  (9)     Two members of the Board of Visitors of the constituent institutions  
13 of the University System of Maryland, appointed jointly by the President of the  
14 Senate and the Speaker of the House;
- 15                  (10)    One representative of the American Association of State Colleges and  
16 Universities;
- 17                  (11)    One representative of the National Association of State Universities  
18 and Land Grant Colleges; and
- 19                  (12)    Five members of the public appointed by the Governor; and be it  
20 further

21     RESOLVED, That the chairman of the task force shall be appointed by the  
22 Governor after consultation with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
23 House; and be it further

24     RESOLVED, That the task force shall solicit the views of the Board of Regents of  
25 the University System of Maryland, the members of the Board of Visitors of the  
26 constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland, the members of the  
27 Maryland Higher Education Commission, and leading national experts in higher  
28 education; and be it further

29     RESOLVED, That the task force report its findings and recommendations to the  
30 General Assembly and Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
31 Government Article, to the General Assembly by October 15, 1998; and be it further

32     RESOLVED, That staff for the task force shall be provided by the Department of  
33 Legislative Services, and that notice of each meeting of the task force be made public  
34 by delivering a copy of the meeting notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room  
35 B-6, Department of Legislative Services, Legislative Services Building, 90 State  
36 Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than

1 Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be  
2 it further

3       RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
4 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;  
5 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
6 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.