

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 4, 1998

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

1 flagship university, historically Black institutions, research institutions, and the
2 comprehensive institutions, should be undertaken; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 WHEREAS, Streamlining the organizational chart of the University System of
34 Maryland may result in greater efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability; now,
35 therefore, be it

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

1 RESOLVED, That the task force consider methods to increase the prominence of
 2 the University System of Maryland's constituent institutions nationally and
 3 internationally, the efficiency of the delivery of higher education services to Maryland
 4 citizens, and other issues related generally to governance, coordination, and funding
 5 of the University System of Maryland; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the task force be composed of:

7 (1) Three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
 8 President of the Senate;

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

11 (3) The Secretary of Higher Education;

12 (4) The President of the University of Maryland, College Park or a
 13 designee of that President;

14 (5) The President of Towson University or a designee of that President;

15 (6) The President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore or a
 16 designee of that President;

17 (7) The President of Frostburg State University or a designee of that
 18 President;

19 (8) One member of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents;

20 (9) Two members of the Board of Visitors of the constituent institutions
 21 of the University System of Maryland, appointed jointly by the President of the
 22 Senate and the Speaker of the House;

23 (10) One representative of the American Association of State Colleges and
 24 Universities;

25 (11) One representative of the National Association of State Universities
 26 and Land Grant Colleges; ~~and~~

27 (12) One representative of the Southern Regional Education Board; and

28 ~~(12)~~ (13) Five Four members of the public appointed by the Governor;
 29 and be it further

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

33 RESOLVED, That the task force shall solicit the views of the Board of Regents of
 34 the University System of Maryland, the members of the Board of Visitors of the
 35 constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland, the members of the

1 Maryland Higher Education Commission, and leading national experts in higher
2 education; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the task force report its findings and recommendations to the
4 General Assembly and Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
5 Government Article, to the General Assembly by ~~October 15, 1998~~ January 1, 1999;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That staff for the task force shall be provided by the Department of
8 Legislative Services, and that notice of each meeting of the task force be made public
9 by delivering a copy of the meeting notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room
10 B-6, Department of Legislative Services, Legislative Services Building, 90 State
11 Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than
12 Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be
13 it further

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