

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

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1998 Regular Session  
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By: **Senators Conway, Frosh, Dyson, Craig, Sfikas, and Hughes**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Permanency of Voting Rights Act of 1965**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Congress of the United States to submit to the  
4 states an amendment to the United States Constitution which includes the  
5 protections provided to all citizens of the United States by the Voting Rights Act  
6 of 1965.

7 WHEREAS, The fundamental right to vote is guaranteed to citizens of the  
8 United States by the U.S. Constitution; and

9 WHEREAS, The 15th and 22nd Amendments to the United States  
10 Constitution extended the right to vote to all citizens of the United States, regardless  
11 of their race, nationality, color, or sex; and

12 WHEREAS, The realization of these constitutional guarantees has been  
13 marked by historic struggles including the fight to enact the Voting Rights Act of  
14 1965; and

15 WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted to enforce the 15th  
16 Amendment to the Constitution and to eliminate poll taxes, literacy tests,  
17 grandfather clauses, and other obstacles to the free exercise of the right to vote; and

18 WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act of 1965 must be reauthorized every 10  
19 years by a majority vote in Congress and be signed by the President of the United  
20 States; and

21 WHEREAS, The protection of a fundamental right such as the right to vote  
22 should not be subject to the prevailing political winds swirling around the legislative  
23 reauthorization process, but should be a permanent part of the law of the land; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the  
26 General Assembly requests the Congress of the United States to submit to the several  
27 states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would include the  
28 protections provided all citizens of the United States in the Voting Rights Act of 1965;  
29 and be it further

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

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
7 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.  
8 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
9 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin,  
10 Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and  
11 Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.