

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

Unofficial Copy
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1999 Regular Session
9r2166

By: **Washington County Delegation and Frederick County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 1999

RESOLUTION NO. _____

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **South Mountain Battlefield Historic Tourism Initiative Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the South Mountain Battlefield
4 Historic Tourism Initiative; providing for the membership of the Task Force;
5 specifying the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the
6 General Assembly and the Governor on or before a certain day; and generally
7 relating to the creation of a Task Force on the South Mountain Battlefield
8 Historic Tourism Initiative.

9 WHEREAS, On September 14, 1862, the Union and the Confederate forces
10 fought a fierce battle over a 7 mile stretch of the South Mountain Range which was
11 the first major Civil War battle in the State; and

12 WHEREAS, The results of that fateful day helped to shape the events and the
13 outcome of the Battle of Antietam that was fought 3 days later; and

14 WHEREAS, The State wishes to forever remember the ultimate sacrifice made
15 by those brave soldiers, their families, and their communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources, the Central Maryland
17 Heritage League, the Friends of Washington Monument State Park, county and
18 municipal government, tourism offices, private landowners, and others have worked
19 closely in protecting and managing lands and interpreting Civil War events within
20 the historical boundaries of the South Mountain Battlefield; and

21 WHEREAS, It is fitting and right to provide Maryland's citizens and visitors to
22 this State an opportunity to see, to learn, and to appreciate the important role that
23 the Battle of South Mountain played in this Country's history; and

1 WHEREAS, Promotion of this important battle in American history will
2 encourage tourism in Frederick County and Washington County; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State
4 of Maryland strongly supports the Department of Natural Resources' effort to study
5 the establishment of a State park at South Mountain that encompasses the battlefield
6 known as South Mountain, including Turner's Gap, Fox's Gap, and Crampton's Gap;
7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a Task Force on the South Mountain Battlefield Historic
9 Tourism Initiative be established to assist the Department of Natural Resources in
10 studying ~~the establishment of a State park at South Mountain~~ and evaluating the
11 potential costs and benefits, and the feasibility, of establishing a State park at South
12 Mountain, including, but not limited to:

13 (1) Identifying funding sources necessary to operate the State park;

14 (2) Recommending procedures for management and maintenance of the State
15 park;

16 (3) Identifying real property needs and property rights issues that need to be
17 addressed; and ~~to ascertain~~

18 (4) Ascertaining the efficacy of establishing a State park at South Mountain;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of:

21 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House, and two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

23 (2) One representative from the Department of Natural Resources, appointed
24 by the Governor;

25 (3) One representative from the Department of Transportation, appointed by
26 the Governor;

27 (4) One representative from the ~~business community of Washington County;~~
28 ~~and~~

29 ~~(5) One representative from the business community of Frederick County~~
30 Department of Business and Economic Development;

31 (5) One representative appointed by the Washington County Board of County
32 Commissioners;

33 (6) One representative appointed by the Frederick County Board of County
34 Commissioners;

35 (7) One representative from the Friends of Gathland State Park, Inc.;

1 (8) One representative from the Friends of Washington Monument State
2 Park;

3 (9) One representative from the Central Maryland Heritage League; and

4 (10) One representative from the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Governor designate the chairman of the Task Force from
7 among the members of the Task Force; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be staffed by the Department of Natural
9 Resources; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings to the Governor and
11 the General Assembly on or before January 19, 2000; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
13 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
14 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
15 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable
16 David P. Gray, President, Board of County Commissioners, Frederick County; and the
17 Honorable Gregory I. Snook, President, Board of County Commissioners, Washington
18 County.