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By: Delegates R. Baker, Moe, Bobo, Conroy, Bartlett, Menes, Frush, Love, Swain, Howard, and Hubbard

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 Maryland Kid Congress

- 3 FOR the purpose of supporting the creation of a statewide Maryland Kid Congress to
- 4 provide children and young adults with a realistic forum for expressing political
- 5 opinions; and encouraging participation in the political process of the State.
- 6 WHEREAS, A Maryland Kid Congress would establish an interactive forum in
- 7 which a realistic learning-by-doing process of exploring governments could take
- 8 place for children and young adults in this State; and
- 9 WHEREAS, A Maryland Kid Congress would provide a forum in which
- 10 participants could learn about government by becoming a mock or virtual
- 11 government; and
- WHEREAS, Experience indicates that most people develop their political
- 13 thinking by borrowing ideas from respected friends, teachers, and parents; and
- WHEREAS, A Maryland Kid Congress would enable participants to challenge
- 15 their own political belief systems and develop their own convictions about the role of
- 16 government; and
- WHEREAS, Even if a child or young adult is not interested in ever running for
- 18 political office, that person will be interested in the laws which are passed that affect
- 19 his or her life and the lives of others; and
- WHEREAS, An important step in understanding our system of government is to
- 21 understand our process of making laws; now, therefore, be it
- 22 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND. That the
- 23 Maryland General Assembly encourages participation in the political process of this
- 24 State; and be it further
- 25 RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly supports the idea of creating
- 26 a Maryland Kid Congress to provide a realistic forum for the expression of ideas and
- 27 values for children and young adults; and be it further

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