

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

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1999 Regular Session
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By: **Baltimore County Delegation, Baltimore City Delegation, and Anne Arundel County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Support for the Maersk/Sea-Land Proposal Serving the Port of Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing the General Assembly's support for the Maryland Port
4 Administration, and its participation in the Maersk/Sea-Land proposal which
5 will aggressively grow the Port and enhance Maryland's economic vitality.

6 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore impacts the daily lives of hundreds of
7 thousands of citizens in Maryland and beyond; and

8 WHEREAS, The shipping industry is a major contributor to the economic health
9 of the State of Maryland and the nation, generating substantially in excess of \$1.3
10 billion each year to Maryland's economy; employing 45,000 Marylanders, including
11 18,000 directly in port jobs; contributing \$141 million in State and local taxes
12 annually, and \$400 million in United States Customs receipts; and

13 WHEREAS, With the maritime industry undergoing revolutionary operational
14 changes, the port industry has become extremely competitive, with all ports striving
15 to attract and retain shipping lines, cargo shippers, and other opportunities related to
16 the movement of cargo; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 1683, maritime activities on the Patapsco River have been
18 the source of economic benefits for this region and led directly to the founding of
19 Baltimore Town, a major economic engine of the State of Maryland, for nearly three
20 centuries; and

21 WHEREAS, Today a wide variety of Maryland industries depend on the Port
22 and its continued success to move cargo safely and efficiently through its terminals;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore is under consideration as the United States
25 Northeast load center for the global containership partnership of Maersk Inc. and
26 Sea-Land Services, Inc., two ocean carriers which operate jointly through a vessel
27 sharing agreement; and

28 WHEREAS, Maersk and Sea-Land, which compose the largest container
29 operator in the United States, have indicated they would handle volumes reaching as

1 many as 550,000 containers annually, with some 10 ship calls weekly at their
2 Northeast load center; and

3 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore has excellent cargo facilities for
4 containerized cargo, a 50 foot channel, and a long-term strategic dredging plan that
5 assures Maersk/Sea-Land that the port can accommodate deep-draft ships; and

6 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore is situated in the fourth largest consumer
7 market in the nation and is well positioned to accommodate large volumes of cargo
8 locally and to the Midwest, Philadelphia, Washington, and New York markets; and

9 WHEREAS, Baltimore offers excellent intermodal, highway, and rail
10 connections, including the benefits of two Class I railroads, CSX and Norfolk
11 Southern, that can offer a greater range of service to more locations; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has made substantial investments in the
13 Port of Baltimore by maintaining its shipping channels and developing
14 state-of-the-art facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore, labor organizations, the Maryland Bay
16 Pilots, and the Port Community have all worked together to bring Maersk/Sea-Land
17 to the Port of Baltimore; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
19 General Assembly supports the Port of Baltimore's initiative to grow cargo by
20 aggressively participating in the effort to secure Maersk/Sea-Land business; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That to the extent possible, sufficient funding be allocated to the
23 Port of Baltimore in order to make the necessary physical improvements to
24 accommodate the substantial increase in business generated by Maersk/Sea-Land;
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That Governor Parris Glendening and the Maryland Department
27 of Transportation, the Port of Baltimore, and the Department of Business and
28 Economic Development have the full support of the General Assembly in their
29 negotiations with Maersk/Sea-Land in order to grow the Port of Baltimore and
30 Maryland's economic vitality; and be it further

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