

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senators Middleton, Teitelbaum, Roesser, Blount, Stone, Collins,
Hollinger, Ferguson, Colburn, DeGrange, Hughes, Jacobs, Green,
Hooper, Sfikas, Ruben, Stoltzfus, Munson, and Neall**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 1999

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force on Microenterprise Development in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to establish a Task Force on
4 Microenterprise Development in Maryland; providing for the membership,
5 responsibilities, staffing, and duration of the Task Force; requiring a certain
6 report by a certain date; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task
7 Force on Microenterprise Development in Maryland.

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 85% of all new jobs in Maryland are created by
9 small businesses, and many of these jobs are created by very small businesses, known
10 as "microenterprises", which employ 5 or fewer employees; and

11 WHEREAS, Microenterprise development has significant economic and societal
12 benefits for urban, suburban, and rural areas of the State; and

13 WHEREAS, Government and private sector programs and services designed to
14 further economic and community development are not ordinarily accessible to
15 microentrepreneurs; and

16 WHEREAS, A considerable entrepreneurial spirit exists among many Maryland
17 residents that is thwarted by regulatory barriers and a lack of access to training,
18 technical assistance, and capital; and

19 WHEREAS, A number of other states, including Virginia and North Carolina,
20 have established state programs to support microenterprise development; and

21 WHEREAS, Maryland has a great opportunity to unleash the considerable
22 underdeveloped human and economic potential that currently exists in all regions of
23 the State; now, therefore, be it

24 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the**
25 **Governor shall create the Task Force on Microenterprise Development in Maryland to**
26 **study:**

1 (1) the scope of microentrepreneurial activity in Maryland, including
2 occupational, demographic, and geographic distributions;

3 (2) the benefits of microentrepreneurial activity to the economy and
4 quality of life in Maryland;

5 (3) regulatory and other impediments that tend to thwart or inhibit
6 microentrepreneurial activity in Maryland;

7 (4) the extent to which federal, State, and local governmental units and
8 private sector organizations in Maryland, independently and collaboratively, support
9 and coordinate their efforts to encourage microenterprise development in the State;

10 (5) the potential benefits that microenterprise development may have for
11 welfare-to-work efforts and other important State and federal initiatives; and

12 (6) microenterprise development programs currently in operation in
13 other states and whether those programs could or should be replicated here in
14 Maryland and at what potential cost; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the following 27 members:

16 (1) 3 members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President;

17 (2) 3 members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by the
18 Speaker;

19 (3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
20 Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
22 Secretary's designee;

23 (5) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's
24 designee;

25 (6) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

26 (7) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

27 (8) the Chairperson of the Forvm for Rural Maryland, or the
28 Chairperson's designee;

29 (9) 1 representative appointed by the Maryland Bankers Association
30 with experience in community reinvestment;

31 (10) 1 representative of a development company that is certified by the
32 Maryland Small Business Administration, appointed by the Governor;

33 (11) 1 representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

- 1 (12) 1 representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 2 (13) 1 county or municipal economic development director, appointed by
3 the Governor;
- 4 (14) 1 representative of the Maryland Center for Community
5 Development;
- 6 (15) 1 representative of the Maryland Association of Community Action
7 Agencies;
- 8 (16) 1 representative of the Maryland Center for Economic Development;
- 9 (17) 1 representative of the Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore;
- 10 (18) 1 representative of the Maryland Capital Enterprises;
- 11 (19) 1 representative of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges;
- 12 (20) 1 representative of an institution of higher education with an interest
13 in microenterprise development, appointed by the Governor; and
- 14 (21) 3 microentrepreneurs, appointed by the Governor from a list of
15 nominees submitted by appropriate governmental units and nonprofit organizations,
16 at least 1 of which resides in a rural area of the State; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Governor shall select a chairperson from among the
18 members of the Task Force; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be staffed by the Department of
20 Business and Economic Development using existing appropriate resources; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Task Force report its findings and recommendations, as
23 provided in § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly and to
24 the Governor not later than December 1, 1999; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That, with no further action required by the General Assembly or
26 the Governor, after December 1, 1999, the Task Force shall no longer exist; and be it
27 further

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