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

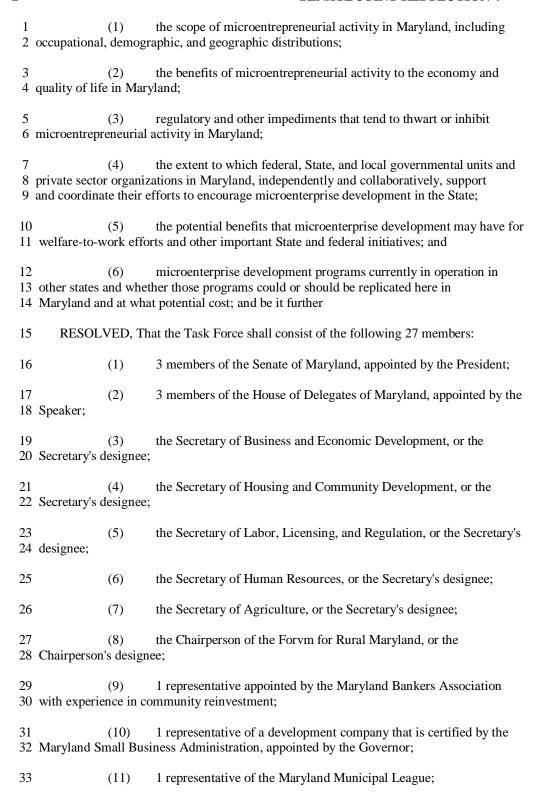
Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1	A Senate	Joint	Reso	lution	concerning
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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
- 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
- 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	(12)	1 representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;
2	(13) the Governor;	1 county or municipal economic development director, appointed by
4 5	(14) Development;	1 representative of the Maryland Center for Community
6 7	(15) Agencies;	1 representative of the Maryland Association of Community Action
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 13	()	1 representative of an institution of higher education with an interest evelopment, 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.