

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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1999 Regular Session  
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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~~ Neall, Hafer, and  
Van Hollen**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 1999  
Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 15, 1999

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

4 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
5 Governor shall create the Task Force on Microenterprise Development in Maryland to  
6 study:

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the following ~~27~~ 22 members:

22 (1) ~~3 members~~ 1 member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
23 President;

24 (2) ~~3 members~~ 1 member of the House of Delegates of Maryland,  
25 appointed by the Speaker;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (10) 1 representative of a development company that is certified by the  
4 Maryland Small Business Administration, appointed by the Governor;

5 (11) 1 representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

6 (12) 1 representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

7 (13) 1 county or municipal economic development director, appointed by  
8 the Governor;

9 (14) 1 representative of the Maryland Center for Community  
10 Development;

11 (15) 1 representative of ~~the Maryland Association of Community Action~~  
12 ~~Agencies~~ a local chamber of commerce;

13 (16) 1 representative of the Maryland Center for Economic Development;

14 (17) 1 representative of ~~the Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore an~~  
15 organization representing women entrepreneurs;

16 (18) ~~1 representative of the Maryland Capital Enterprises~~;

17 ~~(19)~~ 1 representative of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges;

18 ~~(20)~~ (19) 1 representative of an institution of higher education with an  
19 interest in microenterprise development, appointed by the Governor; and

20 ~~(21)~~ (20) 3 microentrepreneurs, appointed by the Governor from a list of  
21 nominees submitted by appropriate governmental units and nonprofit organizations,  
22 at least 1 of which resides in a rural area of the State; and be it further

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

25 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be staffed by the ~~Department of~~  
26 ~~Business and Economic Development~~ Governor's Legislative Office using existing  
27 appropriate resources; and be it further

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

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

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