

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

Unofficial Copy  
P3

1999 Regular Session  
(9lr2435)

**ENROLLED RESOLUTION**

-- Economic and Environmental Affairs/Commerce and Government Matters --

Introduced by **Senator Neall**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

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

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force on Regulatory Reform**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Regulatory Reform to examine a  
4 certain process for the review of regulations, to conduct a certain pilot  
5 examination of portions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), to make  
6 certain recommendations and, on or before a certain date, to submit a certain  
7 report; providing for the membership, chairman, quorum, meetings, and staff of  
8 the Task Force; providing for a certain reimbursement for the members of the  
9 Task Force; requiring certain units in the Executive Branch of the State  
10 government to cooperate with the Task Force for a certain purpose; terminating  
11 the Task Force after a certain date; and generally relating to a certain Task  
12 Force on Regulatory Reform.

13 WHEREAS, The Regulatory Review and Evaluation Act (§§ 10-130 through  
14 10-139 of the State Government Article) requires State agencies to review and  
15 evaluate their regulations on an 8-year cycle to determine whether the regulations  
16 continue to be necessary for the public interest, continue to be supported by statutory  
17 authority and judicial opinions, or are obsolete or otherwise appropriate for  
18 amendment or repeal; and

1 WHEREAS, The review conducted by State agencies under the Regulatory  
2 Review and Evaluation Act is without the benefit of input from stakeholder groups;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Governor's Executive Order on Regulatory Standards and  
5 Accountability (Executive Order No. 01.01.1996.03, February 1, 1996), requires that  
6 any unit of State government proposing to adopt a regulation which is more  
7 restrictive or stringent than an applicable federal standard must perform for that  
8 regulation a cost/benefit and small business impact assessment, and justify the need  
9 for the more restrictive or stringent State standard; and

10 WHEREAS, The Governor's Executive Order on Regulatory Standards and  
11 Accountability applies only to regulations proposed for adoption after February 1,  
12 1996, and does not apply to a substantial body of regulations which have not been  
13 amended after that date; and

14 WHEREAS, The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) is approaching 24,000  
15 pages in length and reflects upwards of 6,000 pages of revisions annually; and

16 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Vice President Al Gore's Reinventing  
17 Government campaign, the federal government successfully eliminated 15,000 pages  
18 of redundant, outdated, or poorly-worded language from the Code of Federal  
19 Regulations; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there is a  
21 Task Force on Regulatory Reform; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall:

23 (1) examine the existing process for the review of regulations under the  
24 Regulatory Review and Evaluation Act;

25 (2) identify portions of at least two titles of the Code of Maryland  
26 Regulations (COMAR) for a pilot examination for the purpose of:

27 (i) clarifying language;

28 (ii) eliminating obsolete language;

29 (iii) applying a cost/benefit analysis;

30 (iv) assessing the impact on small business; and

31 (v) identifying a standard that is more restrictive or stringent than  
32 an applicable federal standard; and

33 (3) as it considers to be necessary and appropriate, make any  
34 recommendations for legislation for introduction in the legislative session for the year  
35 2001; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of 15 members as follows:

1 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
2 of the Senate;

3 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
4 the House;

5 (3) four cabinet-level Secretaries or their designees, appointed by the  
6 Governor;

7 (4) the Administrator of the Division of State Documents or the  
8 Administrator's designee;

9 (5) three members representing private industry regulated by the State,  
10 appointed by the Governor; and

11 (6) three members of the general public who are active in regulatory  
12 affairs, appointed by the Governor; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That:

14 (1) the Governor shall appoint the chairman of the Task Force;

15 (2) eight members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum;

16 (3) the Task Force shall determine the times and places for its meetings;  
17 and

18 (4) the Department of Legislative Services *and the Division of State*  
19 *Documents* shall provide staff *support* for the Task Force; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That units in the Executive Branch whose regulations may be  
21 examined by the Task Force shall cooperate with the Task Force in the performance of  
22 its responsibilities under this Joint Resolution; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation; but

25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
26 Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That on or before December 1, 2000, the Task Force shall submit a  
28 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246  
29 of the State Government Article, to the Legislative Policy Committee of the General  
30 Assembly; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall terminate on December 1, 2000; and be  
32 it further

33 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
34 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;

- 1 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
- 2 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.