

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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2000 Regular Session  
0lr0748

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By: **Delegates Rosso, Leopold, Montague, Cadden, Dobson, Cole, McHale,  
Clagett, Conroy, Brown, and Pitkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2000

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Promoting Environmental Justice in Zip Code 21226**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Department of the Environment, in consultation with  
4 former members of the Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, to develop  
5 and implement a plan to provide equal protection from environmental and  
6 public health hazards for residents of zip code 21226; urging the Department of  
7 the Environment to delineate specific areas of concern within zip code 21226  
8 where certain activity should not take place due to environmental justice  
9 concerns; urging the Department to include in its plan a statement of intent that  
10 it will prohibit further issuance of certain environmental permits in areas  
11 designated by the Department as areas of concern in zip code 21226; and  
12 generally relating to environmental justice concerns in zip code 21226.

13 WHEREAS, "Environmental justice" means equal protection from  
14 environmental and public health hazards for all people regardless of race, income,  
15 culture, and social class; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has one of the highest cancer mortality rates  
17 among states, ranking as seventh highest for cancer mortality; and

18 WHEREAS, A 1996 report by the Maryland Cancer Consortium found that from  
19 1988 to 1992, Anne Arundel County had the highest cancer mortality rate of any  
20 Maryland county west of Chesapeake Bay; and

21 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County, located in the Baltimore Metropolitan  
22 Statistic Area, is classified as being in severe nonattainment for ozone pollution; and

23 WHEREAS, The zip code of 21226 encompasses Northern Anne Arundel County  
24 and Southern Baltimore City, and the residents in this area are exposed to a very high  
25 concentration of chemicals due to the heavy industrial activity concentrated in this  
26 area, and

27 WHEREAS, The demographics of zip code 21226 show that the residents in this  
28 area are primarily low income residents; and

1 WHEREAS, The residents of zip code 21226 are continuously forced to accept  
2 additional heavy industrial activity in this area due to the Department of the  
3 Environment granting environmental permits for these facilities without regard to  
4 environmental justice; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
6 Department of the Environment, in consultation with former members of the  
7 Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, should develop and implement a plan to  
8 promote environmental justice for the area of zip code 21226; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Department of the Environment should delineate specific  
10 areas of concern within zip code 21226 where additional or expanded industrial  
11 activity should not take place due to environmental justice concerns; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Department of the Environment include in its plan a  
13 statement of intent that it will prohibit further issuance of environmental permits for  
14 industrial facilities in designated areas of concern in zip code 21226; and be it further

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