

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

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2000 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Healey, Hixson, Heller, Bozman, McKee, Phillips, Howard,
Patterson, and C. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2000

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Military Compensation - Living Wage**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation to
4 work with the other members of Congress and with the Clinton Administration
5 to develop and enact federal legislation to ensure that members of the military
6 stationed in the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area are paid a reasonable
7 living wage.

8 WHEREAS, The Washington Post reported recently that, of the 40,000 enlisted
9 soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen stationed in the Baltimore-Washington
10 Metropolitan Area, many are forced to work second part-time or even full-time
11 civilian jobs to supplement their military pay; and

12 WHEREAS, Since 1982, military salaries have fallen nearly 14 percent behind
13 civilian pay, so that even with the 4.8 percent pay raise that went into effect in
14 January and a second pay raise due to go into effect in July, there is still an 11 percent
15 gap between military and civilian salaries for commensurate work; and

16 WHEREAS, A single Marine private first class earns a base pay of \$1,075 per
17 month plus a subsistence allowance of \$225 per month for food - an annual salary of
18 \$15,600 - and may receive an additional housing allowance of \$500 to \$650 per month
19 if the private lives off-base; and

20 WHEREAS, The current federal poverty level for a single individual is \$8,240
21 and for a family of four is \$16,700; and

22 WHEREAS, Many low-ranking troops with families rely on food stamps or other
23 forms of federal assistance, with the Defense Department reporting that more than
24 \$800,000 worth of food stamps and vouchers for the Women and Infant Children
25 (WIC) program were redeemed just last year at commissaries in the
26 Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area, including Fort Meade, the Patuxent Naval
27 Air Station, and Andrews Air Force Base; and

28 WHEREAS, More than \$21 million worth of WIC vouchers were redeemed last
29 year at military commissaries across the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, The Washington Post reports that many other soldiers and sailors
2 rely on commissary vouchers from military branch relief societies to survive at a
3 subsistence level; and

4 WHEREAS, A recent survey of 165 soldiers at the Walter Reed Medical Center
5 found that 41 percent were using some form of public or private charity; and

6 WHEREAS, Service members in the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area
7 do not receive the cost-of-living adjustments received by members serving in New
8 York, San Francisco, and Boston; and

9 WHEREAS, It is scandalous that we send members of the military to far-flung
10 areas of the globe, such as Kosovo, and expect them to fight for their country while
11 they must worry about their children's ability to purchase new school shoes; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
14 Maryland Delegation to the United States Congress is strongly urged to work with
15 the other members of Congress and with the Clinton Administration to develop and
16 enact federal legislation to ensure that members of the military stationed in the
17 Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area are paid a reasonable living wage; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
20 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
21 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
22 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
25 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
26 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
27 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin,
28 Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings,
29 Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, and the
30 Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States.