

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

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2000 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Dewberry and Stocksdale**
Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2000
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations
Re-referred to: Ways and Means, March 13, 2000

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: April 3, 2000

RESOLUTION NO. _____

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Maryland's Legislators Back to School Day**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that the Maryland General Assembly supports civic
4 education of students by legislators; declaring that the third Friday in
5 September shall be designated as Maryland's Legislators Back to School Day;
6 and generally relating to legislators and the promotion of civic education.

7 WHEREAS, Maryland was created as a representative democracy in which all
8 governmental power is inherent in the people who exercise that power through the
9 legislative, executive, and judicial branches; and

10 WHEREAS, In recent years, citizen interest in government and knowledge of
11 the political system declined in part due to a weakening belief in, and a lack of
12 understanding of, the virtues and knowledge needed for a successful republican form
13 of government; and

14 WHEREAS, Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence, stated
15 "There is but one method of rendering a republican form of government durable, and
16 that is by disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every part of the
17 state by means of proper places and modes of education and this can be done
18 effectively only by the aid of the legislature"; and

19 WHEREAS, The operations of state legislatures and the roles of individual
20 legislators are often little understood by citizens, and that public understanding of
21 the institutions and processes of the government is critical to building public trust
22 and confidence; and

23 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly must foster a better
24 understanding of the concept of representative democracy and that education about

1 representative democracy should emphasize the importance of compromise and the
2 difficulty of resolving competing interests in a diverse society; and

3 WHEREAS, Civic education is a vital tool to promote greater understanding of
4 the legislative institution and the role of legislators in representative democracy; and

5 WHEREAS, Maryland legislators are uniquely qualified to teach students about
6 the legislative process and their role in our government; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
8 Maryland General Assembly supports civic education to promote greater
9 understanding of the legislative institution and the role of legislators in
10 representative democracy; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly declares that the third
12 Friday in September shall be designated as Maryland's Legislators Back to School
13 Day and urges ~~all~~ as many members of the legislature as possible to visit schools on
14 that day and, if the member is unable to visit schools on that day, to try to visit
15 schools on some other day during the month of September selected by the member;
16 and be it further

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