

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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2000 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Environment - Solid Waste Management - Voluntary Statewide Diversion**
3 **Goal**

4 FOR the purpose of resolving that a certain voluntary statewide diversion goal by a
5 certain date through cooperation by certain parties be established; resolving
6 that a certain formula to calculate each county's diversion rate be established;
7 resolving that the Maryland Department of the Environment determine the
8 source reduction credit; resolving that a certain mandatory county recycling rate
9 be maintained; resolving that counties be provided with certain incentives to
10 recycle; resolving that counties report certain information to the Department;
11 and generally relating to the diversion of solid waste in the State.

12 WHEREAS, Ten years after the Maryland Recycling Act of 1988 was enacted,
13 Maryland's statewide recycling rate increased to 33% in 1998; and

14 WHEREAS, All Maryland counties have met or exceeded the 15% or 20%
15 recycling rates, depending on the county population, required by the Maryland
16 Recycling Act; and

17 WHEREAS, Millions of tons of solid waste continue to enter Maryland landfills
18 each year, and Maryland cannot rely indefinitely on waste exports to other states to
19 conserve Maryland's landfill space; and

20 WHEREAS, Recycling offers a better alternative in terms of extending landfill
21 life, conserving natural resources, saving energy, reducing pollution, and creating jobs
22 and economic development opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, Source reduction, the practice of preventing waste in the first place,
24 and reusing materials rather than recycling or disposing of the material, is the most
25 cost-effective and environmentally sound option available; and

26 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland affirms the Maryland Recycling
27 Advisory Group and the Governor's Solid Waste Management Task Force
28 recommendations that Maryland establish a voluntary statewide diversion goal of
29 40% by the year 2005; and

1 WHEREAS, The Waste Information and Assessment Act requires reporting on
2 the recycling of all solid waste; and

3 WHEREAS, Over 1 million tons of material not counted in the 20% and 15%
4 recycling goals were reported by some counties as recycled in 1998; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland recognizes the need to provide
6 leadership and inspiration so that Maryland citizens realize the many economic and
7 environmental benefits that further progress in recycling and source reduction will
8 bring; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That a
10 voluntary statewide diversion goal of 40% by the year 2005 be established; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That each county's diversion rate shall be defined as the sum of its
13 recycling rate, as calculated under the Maryland Recycling Act, plus up to 5% for
14 counties that qualify for a source reduction credit; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Maryland Department of the Environment determine
16 qualifications for the source reduction credit; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the voluntary statewide diversion goal of 40% by the year
18 2005 will be accomplished through the cooperative efforts of waste generators, State
19 agencies, local governments, the waste industry, the recycling industry,
20 environmental groups, boards of education, and other interested parties; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the county mandatory recycling rates of 15% and 20%
23 established by the Maryland Recycling Act be maintained; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That counties are provided incentive to make the effort to recycle
25 all solid waste and to report all solid waste recycled to the Maryland Department of
26 the Environment; and be it further

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