

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

Committee Report: Favorable
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 3, 2000

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland affirms the Maryland Recycling
2 Advisory Group and the Governor's Solid Waste Management Task Force
3 recommendations that Maryland establish a voluntary statewide diversion goal of
4 40% by the year 2005; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the voluntary statewide diversion goal of 40% by the year
22 2005 will be accomplished through the cooperative efforts of waste generators, State
23 agencies, local governments, the waste industry, the recycling industry,
24 environmental groups, boards of education, and other interested parties; and be it
25 further

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

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

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

