

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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By: **Senator Currie**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Creation of a Space and Flight Center in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Maryland Delegation to Congress to actively
4 advocate and seek private sector, state and federal support, including funding,
5 for a site in Maryland to be designated as a U.S. Space and Flight Center, and
6 for the planning, design, and development of a space and flight center in Prince
7 George's County, Maryland.

8 WHEREAS, Maryland has two major space and flight facilities that are of great
9 importance to the economy and security of the nation, to the advancement of
10 knowledge, and to the quality of life and well-being of the American people; and

11 WHEREAS, These two facilities are the Goddard Space Flight Center and
12 Andrews Air Force Base, home of Air Force One; and

13 WHEREAS, The time is right for Maryland to more fully utilize these assets to
14 educate and inspire our youth, their teachers, and their parents and to attract visitors
15 and realize the economic benefits from these assets; and

16 WHEREAS, Other states have developed space centers and space camps in
17 conjunction with NASA facilities in their states, and have demonstrated the great
18 interest the American people have in visiting and learning more about our space
19 programs, their history, and their potential; and

20 WHEREAS, Maryland has one of the oldest NASA facilities in the nation, and
21 Goddard has developed such outstanding technological advances as the implantable
22 cardioverter defibrillator, Earth Alert, Weather Anywhere, and the LIDAR
23 topographical mapping system; and

24 WHEREAS, Other flight museums have obtained decommissioned Air Force
25 One airplanes and other high-profile airplanes to create air museums and other
26 tourist attractions, but Maryland is the home of Air Force One; and

27 WHEREAS, Maryland is home of the College Park airport, which is the oldest
28 continuously active airport in the world, site of the first military flight training
29 conducted by one of the Wright brothers, and the home of many other historic planes

1 that are on display at nearby Smithsonian locations making Maryland a premier
2 center for flight history, education, and tourism; and

3 WHEREAS, Andrews Air Force Base is also the airport used by the President of
4 the United States and other high-ranking United States officials and visiting
5 dignitaries from all over the world as they travel in and out of Washington, D.C.; and

6 WHEREAS, Most residents of Maryland have never visited either the Goddard
7 Space Flight Center or Andrews Air Force Base, and most visitors to the Nation's
8 Capitol do not include these Maryland attractions in their itinerary; and

9 WHEREAS, With the creation of a Space and Flight Center, highly visible and
10 easily accessible from the Capital Beltway, tourists from all over the country could be
11 attracted to Maryland to visit the Space and Flight Center, and students from
12 throughout the State could take advantage of the unique educational opportunities
13 that a space camp serving in conjunction with Goddard Space Flight Center and
14 Andrews Air Force Base would provide; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there is
16 the need for a Space and Flight Center to be established in Maryland in conjunction
17 with the Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Maryland Delegation to Congress be urged to seek federal
19 support for the establishment of such a space camp, including funding for planning,
20 design, and development, and the cooperation of NASA and Goddard; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
23 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
24 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
25 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates, and to the
26 Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A.
27 Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives
28 Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny
29 Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella,
30 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, and Mr. Ralph Gipson, Executive
31 Director, the NASA, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Space Camp Foundation.