

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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2000 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Hughesville-Lexington Park Railway Corridor Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to establish the Hughesville-Lexington
4 Park Railway Corridor Commission to take certain steps to initiate
5 implementation of the recommendations of the 1998 Hughesville to Lexington
6 Park Right-of-Way Preservation Study; providing for the appointment,
7 membership, staff, and duties of the Commission; requiring the Commission to
8 submit a report of its recommendations to the Governor by a certain date; and
9 generally relating to the Hughesville-Lexington Park Railway Corridor
10 Commission.

11 WHEREAS, Because of population growth and increasing land values, the cost
12 of acquiring and constructing new rights-of-way is escalating and it is, therefore, in
13 the best interest of the State to protect existing railroad rights-of-way for possible
14 future use as trails, utility corridors, highways, mass transit, or railroad use; and

15 WHEREAS, There are several short term and long term actions that can be
16 taken now to ensure that future generations will have options from which to select
17 the best uses of railroad rights-of-way; and

18 WHEREAS, Implementation of specific recommendations with regard to
19 right-of-way preservation and use requires the support and cooperation of all
20 participating government agencies on the local, State, and federal levels; and

21 WHEREAS, The 1998 Hughesville to Lexington Park Right-of-Way
22 Preservation Study, resulting from Chapter 594 (SB 256) of the Acts of 1998,
23 recommended a plan of action for the preservation of the Hughesville-Lexington Park
24 right-of-way, and there is a vital and immediate need to take steps to implement
25 those recommendations; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
27 Governor is requested to establish the Hughesville-Lexington Park Railway Corridor
28 Commission consisting of nine members appointed by the Governor as follows:

29 (1) 1 member of the State Senate, recommended by the President of the
30 Senate;

1 (2) 1 member of the House of Delegates, recommended by the Speaker of
2 the House;

3 (3) U.S. Representative Steny H. Hoyer of the 5th Congressional
4 District, or his designee;

5 (4) 1 representative of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station;

6 (5) 1 representative of the Naval Alliance;

7 (6) 1 member of the Charles County Board of Commissioners;

8 (7) 1 member of the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners;

9 (8) 1 representative of the federal Mass Transit Administration; and

10 (9) 1 representative of the Maryland Department of Transportation with
11 expertise in mass transit, recommended by the Secretary of Transportation; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Governor shall appoint the Chairman of the Commission
14 from among the Commission's members; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall meet regularly subject to the call of the
16 Chairman; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That staffing for the Commission shall be provided by the
18 Maryland Department of Transportation; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall consider the recommendations of the
20 1998 Hughesville to Lexington Park Right-of-Way Preservation Study and
21 determine:

22 (1) the optimal plan for funding the implementation of the Study's
23 recommendations;

24 (2) when and how best to seek funding from federal, State, and county
25 sources; and

26 (3) the schedule for initiating and completing the recommendations of
27 the Study; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall submit a report on the Commission's
29 recommendations to the Governor on or before July 1, 2001; and be it further

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