

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 21, 2000

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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 and the General
9 Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to the
10 Hughesville-Lexington Park Railway Corridor 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

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
 2 Governor is requested to establish the Hughesville-Lexington Park Railway Corridor
 3 Commission consisting of ~~nine~~ ten members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- 4 (1) 1 member of the State Senate, recommended by the President of the
 5 Senate;
- 6 (2) 1 member of the House of Delegates, recommended by the Speaker of
 7 the House;
- 8 (3) the U.S. Representative Steny H. Hoyer of from the 5th
 9 Congressional District, or ~~his~~ the Representative's designee;
- 10 (4) 1 representative of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station;
- 11 (5) 1 representative of the Naval Alliance;
- 12 (6) 1 member of the Charles County Board of Commissioners;
- 13 (7) 1 member of the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners;
- 14 (8) 1 representative of the federal Mass Transit Administration; ~~and~~
- 15 (9) 1 representative of the Maryland Department of Transportation with
 16 expertise in mass transit, recommended by the Secretary of Transportation; and ~~be it~~
 17 further
- 18 (10) 1 representative from the Prince George's County Council; and be it
 19 further

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall consider the recommendations of the
 27 1998 Hughesville to Lexington Park Right-of-Way Preservation Study and
 28 determine:

- 29 (1) the optimal plan for funding the implementation of the Study's
 30 recommendations;
- 31 (2) when and how best to seek funding from federal, State, and county
 32 sources; and
- 33 (3) the schedule for initiating and completing the recommendations of
 34 the Study; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall submit a report on the Commission's
2 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
3 Article, to the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2001; and be it further

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