

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

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2001 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Owings and O'Donnell**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2001
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Patuxent River Watershed - Amendment of Policy Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of approving a certain amendment to the Patuxent River Policy
4 Plan; providing for a certain effective date; resolving that a copy of this
5 resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain
6 individuals; and generally relating to the amendment of the Patuxent River
7 Policy Plan.

8 WHEREAS, § 5-812 of the State Finance and Procurement Article establishes
9 the Patuxent River Commission (the Commission); and

10 WHEREAS, The Commission, the local governments represented on the
11 Commission, and the Maryland General Assembly adopted the original Patuxent
12 River Policy Plan (the Plan) in 1984 in order to serve as a policy guide for the
13 Commission, State agencies, and local governments in carrying out programs in the
14 Patuxent River watershed; and

15 WHEREAS, §§ 5-805 and 5-806 of the State Finance and Procurement Article
16 provide that the Commission and the State Department of Planning shall periodically
17 review and evaluate pertinent information, trends, and issues regarding the Patuxent
18 River watershed in light of the Plan and the Commission's activities; and

19 WHEREAS, §§ 5-805 and 5-806 of the State Finance and Procurement Article
20 also provide procedures for updating the Plan through an amendment process; and

21 WHEREAS, Review and evaluation by the Commission have determined that
22 development within the Patuxent River watershed has expanded significantly since
23 1984, and this expanded development has resulted in the loss of forest cover,
24 agricultural land, open space, and wildlife habitat with a corresponding increase in
25 impervious surface area, thus elevating the level of nutrient and sediment pollution
26 in the Patuxent River; and

27 WHEREAS, Drawing on the outcome of several relevant Patuxent River studies
28 and projects, including "The Patuxent Watershed Demonstration Project", the
29 Commission addressed these issues and the management of the watershed in a draft
30 addendum to the Plan; and

1 WHEREAS, In November 1997, the Commission adopted an addendum, known
2 as the 1997 Addendum, as an amendment to the 1984 Plan, and this was done for the
3 purpose of updating the Plan; and

4 WHEREAS, Effective October 24, 2000, all local governments represented on
5 the Commission adopted by resolution the 1997 Addendum; and

6 WHEREAS, § 5-805 of the State Finance and Procurement Article provides
7 that, on approval by resolution of an amendment by at least six of the eight local
8 jurisdictions represented on the Commission, the amendment shall be presented to
9 the General Assembly for approval; and

10 WHEREAS, The Patuxent River Policy Plan Amendment has been approved by
11 these local jurisdictions, and the General Assembly also finds itself in agreement with
12 the Plan Amendment; and

13 WHEREAS, Upon approval by the General Assembly, this Amendment to the
14 Plan is to serve as a policy guide for the Commission, State agencies, and local
15 governments in enhancing restoration and protection of the Patuxent River
16 watershed; and

17 WHEREAS, Under § 5-805(d)(2) of the State Finance and Procurement Article,
18 the effective date of an amendment is immediate upon approval by joint resolution of
19 the General Assembly, unless otherwise provided in the amendment, and there being
20 no other provision in this amendment, the effective date of this amendment is to be
21 immediate upon approval by the General Assembly of this Joint Resolution; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, effective
24 immediately upon approval of this Joint Resolution, the General Assembly hereby
25 approves the 1997 Addendum as an amendment to the Patuxent River Policy Plan;
26 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; the
30 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable
31 Harriet Tregoning, Secretary of the Department of Planning; and the Honorable Mary
32 C. Lorsung, Chair of the Patuxent River Commission.