

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

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By: **Delegates Kopp, Barkley, Bronrott, Cadden, Clagett, Conroy, Cryor,
D'Amato, Dypski, Goldwater, Grosfeld, Harrison, Howard, Hubbard,
Hubers, Hurson, Love, Mandel, McIntosh, Menes, Morhaim, Petzold,
and Shriver**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001

Assigned to: Appropriations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Lighting Efficiency and Light Pollution in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to study the cost, extent, and
4 consequences of inefficient public lighting and light pollution in the State and
5 benefits of alternative improvements; providing for the membership and
6 appointment of the Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force;
7 requiring the Department of General Services to coordinate the professional and
8 administrative support of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to
9 the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to the Task Force
10 to Study Light Pollution in Maryland.

11 WHEREAS, State and local governments and other public bodies, including the
12 University System of Maryland, spend millions of dollars each year on lighting roads,
13 buildings, and campuses and are also responsible for setting lighting standards and
14 policies throughout the State; and

15 WHEREAS, Too often public funds are spent on lighting which is not optimally
16 efficient, can waste both funds and energy, causes glare which does not enhance
17 public safety and often causes light trespass and light pollution, and can threaten the
18 very survival of amateur and professional astronomy, thereby reducing opportunity
19 for children and others to appreciate the beauties of the night sky; and

20 WHEREAS, Good lighting policies save public funds while enhancing public
21 safety; and

22 WHEREAS, Several agencies of State and local government have begun
23 individually and separately to examine lighting policies and standards with the goal
24 of enhancing efficiency, reducing cost, and reducing pollution, and would benefit from
25 a joint examination of the problems and opportunities inherent in improved policies
26 and practices and in exchange of information with experts such as representatives of
27 the standards-setting Illuminating Engineers Association of North America; now,
28 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there is a
2 Task Force to study the cost, extent, causes, and consequences of current public
3 lighting standards and policies, light pollution, and the benefits of alternative policies
4 in Maryland; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of 22 members, as follows:

6 (1) Two members from the Senate of Maryland, designated by the
7 President of the Senate;

8 (2) Two members from the House of Delegates, designated by the
9 Speaker of the House;

10 (3) One representative from the Department of the Environment,
11 designated by the Secretary;

12 (4) One representative from the Department of Natural Resources,
13 designated by the Secretary;

14 (5) One representative from the Department of General Services,
15 designated by the Secretary;

16 (6) One representative from the Maryland Energy Administration,
17 designated by the Director;

18 (7) One representative from the University System of Maryland,
19 designated by the Chancellor of the University;

20 (8) The Dean of the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical
21 Sciences of the University of Maryland, College Park, or the Dean's designee;

22 (9) Two representatives from the Maryland Department of
23 Transportation, including the Bicycle and Pedestrian Director and an official involved
24 in the State Highway lighting program, designated by the Secretary of
25 Transportation;

26 (10) One representative from the Department of Business and Economic
27 Development, designated by the Secretary;

28 (11) One representative from a County currently officially examining
29 lighting policy and standards, designated by the Maryland Association of Counties;

30 (12) One representative of a municipality currently officially examining
31 local lighting policy and standards, designated by the Maryland Municipal League;

32 (13) One representative from the Illuminating Engineering Society of
33 North America, designated by the Executive Director of the Society;

34 (14) Six members appointed by the Governor as follows:

35 (i) One representative of the professional astronomy community;

- 1 (ii) One representative of the amateur astronomy community;
- 2 (iii) One representative of an environmental group with expertise in
3 the effects of artificial light on wildlife;
- 4 (iv) One representative of the public electric utility industry with a
5 major role in road or exterior lighting;
- 6 (v) One representative of State or local law enforcement; and
- 7 (vi) One representative from science educators at the secondary
8 school level; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Governor shall designate the Chairman of the Task Force;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Department of General Services shall coordinate with
12 other State agencies, including the University of Maryland, to provide professional
13 and administrative support to the Task Force; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a member of the Task Force:

- 15 (1) May not receive compensation; but
- 16 (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
17 Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall:

- 19 (1) Estimate the potential fiscal and energy costs and savings, including
20 the potential impact on the State budget and the budgets of county and municipal
21 jurisdictions in the State, associated with the adoption of lighting practices that
22 minimize inefficient lighting, light pollution, and energy waste while meeting
23 important illumination and safety lighting requirements; and
- 24 (2) Study and document the consequences of light pollution in Maryland,
25 including its impact on driving safety, general community safety, birds and other
26 nocturnal fauna, astronomical research observation, the natural beauty of the night
27 sky, and any other consequences the Task Force determines are appropriate for its
28 attention;
- 29 (3) Survey and document the technology and standards currently
30 available to minimize light pollution; and
- 31 (4) Prepare recommendations for public and private action to enhance
32 lighting efficiency and minimize light pollution in Maryland, including, but not
33 limited to, appropriate standards or policies for consideration by appropriate State
34 agencies, counties, or municipal corporations in the State; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue a preliminary report of its findings
36 and recommendations to the General Assembly, subject to § 2-1246 of the State

1 Government Article, on or before October 15, 2001, and shall issue a final report of its
2 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before February 1,
3 2002; 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.