

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

Unofficial Copy
J1

2001 Regular Session
(1r2369)

ENROLLED RESOLUTION

-- *Environmental Matters/Economic and Environmental Affairs* --

Introduced by **Delegates Hurson, Barve, Kopp, Goldwater, Grosfeld, Barkley,
and Owings**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Center for Excellence for Autism in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the University of Maryland, the University of Maryland
4 Medical Center, The Johns Hopkins University, The Johns Hopkins ~~Hospital~~
5 Health System, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
6 investigate the feasibility of working collaboratively in the field of autism
7 research with the objective of establishing joint research and clinical programs
8 that could compete for National Institutes of Health funding as a Center for
9 Excellence for Autism in Maryland; and generally relating to the establishment
10 of a Center for Excellence for Autism in Maryland.

11 WHEREAS, Best estimates indicate that one in 500 children born in the State
12 will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, a disorder that causes severe
13 impairments in language and communication; and

14 WHEREAS, There is evidence that the incidence of autism in Maryland is on the
15 rise; and

1 WHEREAS, The Children's Health Act of 2000 authorizes the National
2 Institutes of Health to provide up to \$40,000,000 over a 5-year period to public or
3 nonprofit private entities to establish centers of excellence in autism and pervasive
4 developmental disabilities epidemiology for the purpose of collecting and analyzing
5 information on the number, incidence, correlates, and causes of autism and related
6 developmental disabilities and basic and clinical research into autism, including
7 investigations into the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control, and
8 treatment of autism; and

9 WHEREAS, Centers of excellence under the Children's Health Act of 2000 may
10 use the facilities of a single institution, or may be formed from a consortium of
11 cooperating institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, The diverse symptoms and etiology of autism require a high level of
13 activity in the widest variety of scientific fields, from genetics and neurology to
14 neuroimaging, immunology, and gastroenterology, if effective treatments and a cure
15 are to be found quickly; and

16 WHEREAS, The University of Maryland, the University of Maryland Medical
17 Center, The Johns Hopkins University, and The Johns Hopkins ~~Hospital~~ Health
18 System are top tier research and medical institutions in Maryland which are already
19 actively involved in different aspects of autism research and treatment; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
22 University of Maryland, the University of Maryland Medical Center, The Johns
23 Hopkins University, and The Johns Hopkins ~~University Hospital~~ Health System work
24 in consultation with one another and with the Department of Health and Mental
25 Hygiene to determine the feasibility of establishing a consortium in the field of
26 autism for the purpose of:

27 (1) collecting and analyzing information on the number, incidence,
28 correlates, and causes of autism and related developmental disabilities; and

29 (2) performing basic and clinical research into autism, including
30 investigations into the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control, and
31 treatment of autism; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That, if it is determined by these entities that a consortium in one
33 or both of the research areas discussed is feasible and desirable, that the General
34 Assembly and the Office of the Governor will provide support as appropriate and
35 necessary to facilitate the designation of the consortium as a Center for Excellence in
36 Autism, as that term is defined by the National Institutes of Health; and be it further

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

