

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

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2001 Regular Session
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By: **Delegate Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Dumping of Dredge Spoil - Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing the significant environmental concerns with dredging
4 the Bay; recognizing the significant environmental concerns associated with
5 placement of dredge material; and urging that certain dumping of dredge
6 material be prohibited except under certain circumstances.

7 WHEREAS, The shipping industry is a major component of Maryland's
8 infrastructure, essential to the continuing economic well-being of the State; and

9 WHEREAS, There are both immediate and long-term needs for maintaining
10 and expanding the draft and capacity of shipping lanes in the waters of the State,
11 including the channel approaches to the Port of Baltimore, the main stem of the
12 Chesapeake Bay, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal; and

13 WHEREAS, The most pressing issue in the maintenance of the approach
14 channels to the Port of Baltimore is the availability of adequate capacity for dredge
15 material in maintenance operations; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has a long-standing tradition of protecting
17 and restoring the Chesapeake Bay; and

18 WHEREAS, The goal of restoring the Chesapeake Bay as the largest and most
19 productive estuary in the United States should include plans that recognize the
20 historical location of existing and historical natural islands; and

21 WHEREAS, There exist several sites in the Chesapeake Bay that would readily
22 support the beneficial uses of clean dredge material for the restoration of wetlands
23 and the restoration of existing and historical natural islands and habitat; and

24 WHEREAS, The House of Delegates passed legislation during the 2000
25 legislative session to prohibit a person from dumping dredge material in certain areas
26 of the Chesapeake Bay or onto an area known as Site 104; and

27 WHEREAS, The dredge material is recognized as a natural mineral resource
28 with the potential for economic value; and

1 WHEREAS, Governor Parris N. Glendening terminated consideration of Site
2 104 as an open bay dumping area for 5,000 barge loads of spoil; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
4 General Assembly recognizes there are significant environmental concerns with open
5 water dumping of dredge material and there is a critical need to develop alternative
6 beneficial uses for dredge material; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly recognizes there are significant
8 environmental concerns including nutrient releases and bay eutrophication,
9 associated with placement of dredge material in the deep trough of the Chesapeake
10 Bay; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges that open water dumping of
12 dredge material into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries should be prohibited
13 unless the dredge material will be used to restore natural islands or wetlands,
14 including Poole's Island; and be it further

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