

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

Unofficial Copy
P1

2002 Regular Session
2lr2073

By: **Delegates Flanagan and Billings**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2002
Assigned to: Ways and Means

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Commercial Gaming - Interstate Compact**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Governor and the General Assembly to follow a certain
4 recommendation of the Joint Executive-Legislative Task Force to Study
5 Commercial Gaming Activities in Maryland; urging the creation of a
6 Commercial Gaming Committee to begin discussions with the District of
7 Columbia and certain surrounding states on the development of an interstate
8 compact to prohibit the expansion of commercial gaming on a regional basis;
9 providing for the membership of the Commercial Gaming Committee; providing
10 for the submission of a certain report; defining a term; and generally relating to
11 commercial gaming.

12 WHEREAS, The term "commercial gaming" refers to any for-profit
13 sponsorship of the games that are common forms of commercial gambling, including
14 slot machines and table games, such as blackjack, roulette, baccarat, and craps; and

15 WHEREAS, Substantial harmful consequences, including the rise in the crime
16 rate, demand for social services, and damage to existing entertainment industries
17 could arise from commercial gaming operations with little offsetting economic benefit
18 to the State; and

19 WHEREAS, Commercial gaming already exists in surrounding states, and the
20 pressure to allow commercial gaming in Maryland will increase substantially if its
21 neighboring jurisdictions permit expansion; and

22 WHEREAS, Because of this threat, the Joint Executive-Legislative Task
23 Force to Study Commercial Gaming Activities in Maryland recommended, in part, in
24 its Final Report to the Governor and the General Assembly in 1995, that Maryland
25 should try to strengthen the current prohibitions against commercial casino gaming
26 by requiring the Governor and the General Assembly to begin negotiations on an
27 interstate compact with the District of Columbia and the states of Delaware,
28 Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia to prohibit the expansion of commercial
29 casino gaming in the mid-Atlantic region; now, therefore, be it

30 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
31 Governor and the General Assembly are urged to follow the recommendation of the
32 Joint Executive-Legislative Task Force to Study Commercial Gaming Activities in

1 Maryland by creating a Commercial Gaming Committee, consisting of the Governor
2 or the Governor's representative, two members of the State Senate, appointed by the
3 President of the Senate, and two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
4 Speaker of the House; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Commercial Gaming Committee should begin
6 negotiations on an interstate compact with the District of Columbia and the states of
7 Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia to prohibit the expansion of
8 commercial gaming in the mid-Atlantic region; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Casino Gaming Committee should submit a report on its
10 progress at negotiating an interstate compact to the General Assembly, in accordance
11 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article on or before December 31, 2002; and be
12 it further

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