

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

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HJ 15/01 - ECM

2002 Regular Session
2lr0756

By: **Delegates Marriott, Burns, C. Davis, DeCarlo, Gladden, Healey, V. Jones,
Kirk, McHale, and Paige**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Global Sullivan Principles of Corporate Social Responsibility**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing support for the Global Sullivan Principles of Corporate
4 Social Responsibility; and encouraging Maryland companies and companies
5 doing business in and with the State of Maryland to adopt the Principles.

6 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland and the Maryland General Assembly have
7 for many decades been in the leadership in supporting universal human rights and
8 promoting equal opportunity for all citizens, regardless of color, race, gender,
9 ethnicity, disability, or religious beliefs; and

10 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland and the Maryland General Assembly have
11 during those same many years fought the exploitation and abuse of women and
12 children at home and in the workplace; and

13 WHEREAS, Maryland employers have a long tradition of compensating their
14 employees at a level that enables them to meet the basic needs of those employees,
15 while generously enhancing employee social and economic opportunities by providing
16 important training and job skills; and

17 WHEREAS, Maryland employers also have worked long and hard, through
18 their own devices and in partnership with the State, to provide a safe and healthy
19 workplace and environment; and

20 WHEREAS, Maryland has long been the venue for fair business competition,
21 where intellectual and property rights are respected and protected; and

22 WHEREAS, On November 2, 1999, United Nations Secretary General Kofi
23 Annan and human rights activist Leon H. Sullivan offered for the consideration of the
24 international business community the Global Sullivan Principles of Corporate Social
25 Responsibility, under which all businesses, small and large, domestic and
26 international, are encouraged to work as a force in the advancement of human rights,
27 equal opportunity, and social and economic justice for workers and communities
28 around the world; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Senate, as well as the city councils of Los
2 Angeles and Philadelphia, have all, since November 2, 1999, passed resolutions
3 endorsing the Principles; and

4 WHEREAS, The endorsement of the Principles throughout this country and
5 the world would encourage the international business community to work toward
6 their implementation; and

7 WHEREAS, The implementation by the international business community of
8 the Principles throughout this country and the world would lead to greater tolerance
9 and understanding and advance the culture of peace; and

10 WHEREAS, The endorsement of the Principles by the State of Maryland and
11 the Maryland General Assembly would serve to encourage the Maryland business
12 community to take the leadership in the worldwide movement towards achieving
13 corporate social responsibility; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
15 Maryland General Assembly hereby strongly endorses the Global Sullivan Principles
16 of Corporate Social Responsibility; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly strongly encourages
18 business organizations operating in and doing business with the State of Maryland to
19 adopt, implement, and spread the Principles, which state that a business organization
20 signing onto the Principles agrees to:

21 (1) Express its support for universal human rights and, particularly, those of
22 its employees, the communities within which it operates, and the parties with whom
23 it does business;

24 (2) Promote equal opportunity for its employees at all levels of the company,
25 without regard to color, race, gender, age, ethnicity, or religious beliefs;

26 (3) Operate in a manner that does not involve the unacceptable treatment of
27 employees, such as the exploitation of children, physical punishment, sexual
28 harassment, involuntary servitude, or other forms of abuse;

29 (4) Respect its employees' right to freedom of association;

30 (5) Compensate its employees at a level that enables them to meet at least
31 their basic needs and provides the opportunity to improve their skills and capabilities
32 in order to raise their social and economic opportunities;

33 (6) Provide a safe and healthy workplace;

34 (7) Protect human health and the environment;

35 (8) Promote sustainable development;

1 (9) Promote fair competition, including a respect for intellectual and other
2 property rights, and not offer, pay, or accept bribes;

3 (10) Work with governments and the communities in which it does business to
4 improve the quality of life in those communities -- their educational, cultural,
5 economic, and social well-being -- and seek to provide training and opportunities for
6 workers from disadvantaged backgrounds; and

7 (11) Promote the application of the Global Sullivan Principles by those with
8 whom it does business; and be it further

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