

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19

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HJ 21/01 - CGM

2002 Regular Session  
2lr2386

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By: **Delegates V. Jones, Arnick, Barkley, Benson, Bobo, Branch, Bronrott, Clagett, C. Davis, DeCarlo, Dobson, Dypski, Fulton, Gladden, Glassman, Harrison, A. Jones, Kirk, Krysiak, Malone, Mandel, Marriott, McIntosh, Montague, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Paige, Parrott, Phillips, Rawlings, Riley, Sophocleus, Swain, and Taylor**

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

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Voting Rights Act**

3 FOR the purpose of urging Congress to amend the Voting Rights Act to ensure that  
4 certain provisions that safeguard against extraordinary racial discrimination in  
5 voting procedures are reauthorized.

6 WHEREAS, Voting is the language of democracy and has proven to be one of the  
7 most effective tools in the ongoing battle against racism in our nation; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was passed by Congress to protect  
9 every American against racial discrimination in voting; and

10 WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act is created to ensure that every person's vote  
11 is equal, and that race should never shut any person out of the political process; and

12 WHEREAS, In the November 2000 U.S. Presidential Election it is reported that  
13 many African American citizens of several states, including the State of Florida, were  
14 disenfranchised from their right to vote; and

15 WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made specific provisions to mitigate  
16 against extraordinary racial discrimination in voting rights; and

17 WHEREAS, These provisions applied to certain areas of the nation for a limited  
18 period of time; and

19 WHEREAS, These certain areas included several jurisdictions where voting  
20 irregularities took place during the 2000 Presidential Election; and

21 WHEREAS, Racial discrimination in voting thus continues to be a problem  
22 today; and

23 WHEREAS, These provisions of the Voting Rights Act that provide safeguards  
24 against racial discrimination in voting will expire in 2007, unless Congress renews  
25 these provisions; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
2 General Assembly of Maryland urge Congress to reauthorize all provisions in the  
3 Voting Rights Act that are scheduled to expire in 2007; 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; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
10 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.  
11 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
12 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin,  
13 Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and  
14 Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.