

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 39

Unofficial Copy
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2002 Regular Session
2lr3005

By: **Delegates Owings, Bohanan, Hutchins, Linton, O'Donnell, Mitchell, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2002
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Union Firefighters - Right to Volunteer at Local Volunteer Fire Departments**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the President of the United States and the Maryland
4 Delegation to the United States Congress to help preserve the right of
5 firefighters who are members of a union to volunteer at local volunteer fire
6 departments.

7 WHEREAS, The International Association of Fire Fighters has approved a
8 resolution that discourages its members from volunteering their services at local
9 volunteer fire departments; and

10 WHEREAS, The President of the United States has requested that each able
11 American volunteer their time and talents to enhancing homeland security and
12 emergency response services; and

13 WHEREAS, Many of our brave and courageous fire fighting citizens use their
14 personal and private time and offer their skill and expertise as emergency response
15 professionals to volunteer to make Maryland communities safe; and

16 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of all career firefighters volunteer at nearby
17 departments which, if they were required to cease their volunteer activities, would
18 leave some of our citizens unprotected and place a greater fiscal burden on the
19 taxpayers in tight economic times; and

20 WHEREAS, The requirements of the International Association of Fire Fighters
21 may disenfranchise third and fourth generation volunteer firefighters by forcing
22 them to choose between union membership and philanthropic service; and

23 WHEREAS, Volunteering as a firefighter makes county and municipal
24 firefighters more effective and increases morale in the fire departments throughout
25 the State; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the
27 General Assembly urges the President of the United States, George W. Bush, and the
28 Maryland Delegation to the United States Congress to take whatever action is
29 necessary to preserve the rights of firefighters who are members of a union to serve

1 their communities and hone their skills by serving in volunteer fire departments; and
2 be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
4 Legislative Services to the President of the United States of America, the Honorable
5 George W. Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20500; to the
6 Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A.
7 Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives
8 Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny
9 Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella,
10 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and to the Honorable Parris N.
11 Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.,
12 President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.,
13 Speaker of the House of Delegates.