

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senators Conway, Blount, Collins, Dyson, Exum, Frosh, Harris,
Hollinger, Lawlah, McFadden, Mooney, Pinsky, Schrader, and Stone**

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 19, 2002

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **American Indian Heritage Month**

3 FOR the purpose of designating November as "American Indian Heritage Month".

4 WHEREAS, Maryland is inextricably linked to the histories of the American
5 Indians with reminders of their legacy speaking to Marylanders through the names of
6 its counties, parks, and waterways including, Wicomico County, Allegany County,
7 Seneca State Park, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay, the Nation's largest
8 estuary, that derives its name from the Powhatan Indian word "Chesepiooc" meaning
9 "Great Shellfish Bay"; and

10 WHEREAS, American Indian societies exhibited a respect for the finite quality
11 of natural resources through a deep respect for the Earth, and such values continue to
12 be widely held today; and

13 WHEREAS, The people of Maryland should be reminded of the assistance given
14 to the early European visitors to North America by the ancestors of today's American
15 Indians, including knowledge and training provided to the Pilgrims in survival
16 hunting and cultivation and fertilization of indigenous crops; and

17 WHEREAS, American Indian people have served with valor in all wars that the
18 United States has engaged in, from the Revolutionary War to the conflict in the
19 Persian Gulf, often serving in greater numbers, proportionately, than the population
20 of the Nation as a whole; and

21 WHEREAS, In recognizing the many contributions made by the American
22 Indians to the United States, Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton have
23 all issued national proclamations during their administrations declaring the month of
24 November as "American Indian Heritage Month"; and

1 WHEREAS, The Members of the Senate and House of Delegates believe that a
2 resolution and proclamation of the nature requested in this resolution can encourage
3 activities which provide positive benefits of enhanced self-esteem, pride, and
4 self-awareness to young American Indians; and

5 WHEREAS, November is a time when many Marylanders commemorate a
6 special time in the history of the United States when American Indians and English
7 settlers celebrated the bounty of their harvest and the promise of new kinships; and

8 WHEREAS, The month of November concludes the traditional harvest season of
9 American Indians and was generally a time of celebration and giving thanks; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the month
12 of November is designated as "American Indian Heritage Month"; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That schools, libraries, State and local governments, and other
14 organizations within the State should appropriately observe this month; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That State and local governments will use the month of November
17 to assess the ways to improve understanding, cooperation, and communication with
18 American Indians, especially those residing within Maryland's borders; and be it
19 further

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