

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

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2002 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Frosh**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Mute Swans**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to act with expedience
4 to craft and conduct appropriate regulatory processes which will allow
5 Maryland to establish a method of controlling the mute swan population and to
6 mitigate the mute swan population's impact permanently and statewide.

7 WHEREAS, The bird species known as the mute swan is not native to the
8 Chesapeake Bay; and

9 WHEREAS, Surveys of the Chesapeake Bay indicate that the mute swan
10 population is growing at an alarming rate, increasing from less than 100 birds in
11 1973 to nearly 4,000 in 1999; and

12 WHEREAS, Mute swans negatively impact native species and habitats in parts
13 of the Chesapeake Bay by displacing State-listed nesting waterbirds and removing
14 large amounts of submerged aquatic vegetation which is vital to all life in the Bay;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Mute swans have repeatedly disrupted efforts to restore submerged
17 aquatic vegetation, obstructing progress toward the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement goal
18 of restoring 114,000 acres of the vegetation by 2010; and

19 WHEREAS, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that
20 mute swans are protected by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations governing
21 activities involving direct contact with protected birds under the Migratory Bird
22 Treaty Act; and

23 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 728 during the
24 2001 Legislative Session, requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish
25 a program to control the State's mute swan population; and

26 WHEREAS, The urgent need to plan and implement mute swan population
27 control measures and to mitigate mute swan impacts increases exponentially each
28 year; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the U.S.
2 Fish and Wildlife Service act with expedience to craft and conduct appropriate
3 regulatory processes which will allow Maryland to establish a method of controlling
4 the mute swan population and to mitigate the mute swan population's impact
5 permanently and statewide; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
7 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
8 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
9 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable
10 Barbara A. Mikulski, U.S. Senate, 709 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.
11 20510; the Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes, U.S. Senate, 309 Hart Senate Office
12 Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest, U.S. Congress,
13 2245 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Robert
14 L. Ehrlich, Jr., U.S. Congress, 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
15 D.C. 20515; the Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, U.S. Congress, 2267 Rayburn House
16 Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Albert R. Wynn, U.S.
17 Congress, 434 Cannon Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Steny
18 H. Hoyer, U.S. Congress, 1705 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
19 20515; the Honorable Roscoe G. Bartlett, U.S. Congress, 2412 Rayburn House Office
20 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, U.S.
21 Congress, 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the
22 Honorable Constance A. Morella, U.S. Congress, 2228 Rayburn House Office
23 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Mr. Marshall Jones, Director (Acting), U.S. Fish
24 and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240; and Mr. Jon
25 Andrew, Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird
26 Management, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.