

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

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By: **Senators Middleton, Colburn, Dyson, Ferguson, Hafer, Haines, Hooper,
Jacobs, and Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2002

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Ethanol Production in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of urging certain State agencies to provide financial and technical
4 support for the production of fuel grade ethanol production in the State; and
5 requiring the Department of Business and Economic Development to submit a
6 certain report on or before a certain date.

7 WHEREAS, Ethanol is a domestic and renewable fuel produced from grain
8 crops and other biomass sources that can replace petroleum to increase our energy
9 security and reduce our dependence on imported oil and fossil fuels; and

10 WHEREAS, When ethanol is added to petroleum fuels it reduces carbon
11 monoxide emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, urban air pollution, water pollution,
12 waste disposal, acid rain, and smog, and, at the same time, does not adversely affect
13 the nitrogen oxide levels or the performance of motor vehicles; and

14 WHEREAS, Ethanol is a flexible, environmentally friendly fuel that can be used
15 as a 10% blend (E10) to run in any vehicle to boost the octane level of gasoline, as an
16 oxygenate to replace methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), or simply as an extender to
17 displace foreign oil. It can also be used as an 85% blend (E85) as an alternative fuel
18 which will run in a large number of commercially available flexible fuel vehicles, as a
19 source of hydrogen for fuel cells, blended with diesel to reduce sulfur levels, and as an
20 aviation fuel; and

21 WHEREAS, A recent study shows that a barley-based ethanol plant is feasible
22 for Maryland. Ethanol production benefits the economy by providing an additional
23 cash crop for Maryland farmers, creating new jobs in rural areas, reducing the
24 dependency on foreign petroleum, therefore, reducing the trade deficit, and lowering
25 health care costs associated with toxic emissions; and

26 WHEREAS, The Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the
27 Environment have determined that cover crops are one of the most effective Best
28 Management Practices to reduce nitrogen loading into the Chesapeake Bay. A small
29 grains ethanol plant will expand the acreage of barley and other small grains, which
30 are excellent cover crops that utilize residual nitrogen thereby reducing agricultural
31 runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and coastal bay watershed; and

1 WHEREAS, The federal government has established certain policies to expand
2 the use of clean burning, renewable, domestic fuels, like ethanol, and is considering
3 further incentives to increase the use of renewable energies; and

4 WHEREAS, The Governor has expressed his support for renewable energy and
5 alternative fuels in his recent Executive Orders on Energy Conservation and
6 Efficiency and Clean Power, Green Buildings, and Energy Efficiency; and

7 WHEREAS, Other states have benefitted from investments and policies
8 designed to foster the development of an ethanol production industry; and

9 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly wishes to support the
10 construction of a fuel grade ethanol plant in Maryland and is willing to support
11 financial assistance for the construction of the plant; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That ethanol
13 production could provide significant contributions to the State's environment, energy
14 security, and economy. The General Assembly urges the Department of Business and
15 Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the
16 Environment to provide technical assistance and financial support for the
17 development of a business plan for an ethanol industry in Maryland; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Department of Business and Economic Development
19 shall report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2002, in accordance
20 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on measures, such as production
21 credits, construction bonds or other incentives that would attract producers to develop
22 an ethanol production plant in Maryland that will be fully on line and operating at
23 capacity in 2004; and be it further

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