

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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2003 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Burns, Anderson, Bohanan, Boteler, Cane, Conroy, C. Davis,
DeBoy, Fulton, Glassman, Griffith, Harrison, Howard, Hutchins,
Impallaria, Jameson, Jennings, Kach, Kirk, McDonough, Minnick,
Murray, O'Donnell, Owings, Paige, Sophocleus, Taylor, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Religious Freedom**

3 FOR the purpose of resolving that a person who prays in a public place in Maryland
4 may properly refer to a particular deity or religious leader without being subject
5 to criticism or censure; and generally relating to religious freedom in Maryland.

6 WHEREAS, Article 36 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides for
7 freedom of religion in Maryland; and

8 WHEREAS, Maryland has a history of religious toleration and freedom; and

9 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States provides for freedom of
10 religion; and

11 WHEREAS, The people of the State of Maryland respect religious diversity; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That a person
14 who prays in a public place in Maryland may properly refer to a particular deity or
15 religious leader during that person's prayer; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a person who refers to a particular deity or religious leader
17 during prayer in a public place in Maryland may not be subject to criticism or censure
18 because of the reference to a particular deity or religious leader; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
20 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
21 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
22 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.