

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19

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2003 Regular Session  
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By: **Delegates Marriott, Anderson, Branch, Carter, C. Davis, Doory, Fulton, Hammen, Harrison, Haynes, Kirk, Krysiak, McHale, McIntosh, Oaks, Paige, and Rosenberg**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 21, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **State of Emergency in the Baltimore City School System**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the governing bodies of Baltimore City, the State of  
4 Maryland, and the United States to declare the Baltimore City school system in  
5 a state of emergency; urging the governing bodies of Baltimore City, the State of  
6 Maryland, and the United States to provide financial aid to alleviate the  
7 conditions that led the Baltimore City school system to its current state; and  
8 urging the Governor to seek certain funding under the federal Clean Water  
9 Drinking Act.

10 WHEREAS, The Baltimore City school system and its schools are in a  
11 deplorable and hazardous condition; and

12 WHEREAS, Many schools in Baltimore City are contaminated with high  
13 concentrations of lead in the drinking water, necessitating the transporting of  
14 alternate water supplies to the schools; and

15 WHEREAS, The school system needs money for facility construction, repair, and  
16 restoration; and

17 WHEREAS, The school system already has a \$31 million deficit, largely due to  
18 insufficient federal, State, and local funding; and

19 WHEREAS, Hazardous physical conditions and lack of funding to improve such  
20 conditions do not provide a safe and conducive environment for learning or academic  
21 achievement and success; and

22 WHEREAS, In a natural or human-created disaster, the federal and state  
23 governments provide financial assistance in many forms to the community and  
24 individuals affected by the disaster; and

25 WHEREAS, The Baltimore City school system is in an academic and physical  
26 state of emergency; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Mayor  
2 and City Council of Baltimore City, the Governor and the General Assembly of the  
3 State of Maryland, and the President of the United States and the United States  
4 Congress are respectfully urged to declare the Baltimore City school system in a state  
5 of emergency and to provide financial aid to the school system to alleviate the  
6 conditions that led the school system to its current state; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Governor of Maryland is respectfully urged to seek the  
8 necessary emergency funding from the United States Environmental Protection  
9 Agency under the federal Clean Water Drinking Act to ensure the safety of drinking  
10 water in Baltimore City schools; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
12 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
13 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
14 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
16 Legislative Services to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States,  
17 The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the  
18 Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A.  
19 Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives  
20 Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R.  
21 Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and  
22 Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and be  
23 it further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
25 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin J. O'Malley, Mayor of Baltimore City,  
26 City Hall, Room 250, 100 North Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD 21202; the members  
27 of the Baltimore City Council: Sheila Dixon, Stephanie C. Rawlings, John L. Cain,  
28 Nicholas C. D'Adamo, Jr., Lois A. Garey, Paula Johnson Branch, Bernard C. Young,  
29 Robert W. Curran, Kenneth N. Harris, Sr., Lisa Joi Stancil, Keiffer Jackson Mitchell,  
30 Jr., Catherine E. Pugh, Agnes B. Welch, Helen L. Holton, Rochelle Spector, Kwame  
31 Osayaba Abayomi, Edward L. Reisinger, and Melvin L. Stukes, City Hall, 100 North  
32 Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD 21202; the New Baltimore City Board of School  
33 Commissioners: J. Tyson Tildon, Ph.D., Colene Y. Daniel, C. William Struever, Camay  
34 C. Murphy, Dorothy G. Siegel, Samuel C. Stringfield, Ph.D., Kenneth A. Jones, David  
35 J. Stone, and Patricia L. Welsh, Ph.D., 200 East North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland  
36 21202; and Carmen V. Russo, Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City  
37 Department of Education, 200 East North Avenue, Room 405, Baltimore, Maryland  
38 21202.