

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

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2004 Regular Session
4r3065

By: **Delegates Krebs, Boteler, Elliott, Feldman, Frank, Glassman, King,
McComas, McMillan, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stull, and Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2004

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Higher Education - Teacher Education Reading Programs - Alignment with**
3 **Federal Law**

4 FOR the purpose of urging institutions of higher education in the State that receive
5 State funds to provide teacher education reading programs that are aligned with
6 the federal No Child Left Behind Act; urging certain institutions of higher
7 education to revise their undergraduate and continuing education courses to
8 strongly emphasize certain elements; providing that a copy of this resolution be
9 forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain individuals; and
10 generally relating to teacher education reading programs at certain institutions
11 of higher education in the State.

12 WHEREAS, All public schools in Maryland are required by law to comply with
13 the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and

14 WHEREAS, The Reading First program passed by the United States Congress
15 requires that all teachers of students in kindergarten through grade 3, as well as all
16 teachers of special education students in kindergarten through grade 12, receive
17 adequate and high quality instruction in scientifically based reading research; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health has determined that phonics is
19 an essential component of a balanced, scientifically based reading curriculum that
20 teaches children to read by grade 3; and

21 WHEREAS, All Maryland teachers must complete State-required reading
22 courses that address the Essential Components of Reading Instruction (ECRI),
23 including:

- 24 (1) phonemic awareness;
- 25 (2) phonics;
- 26 (3) vocabulary development;
- 27 (4) reading fluency, including oral reading skills; and
- 28 (5) reading comprehension strategies; and

1 WHEREAS, A correlation between strong teacher preparation and strong
2 student performance has been demonstrated; and

3 WHEREAS, COMAR regulations do not require reading courses to include
4 scientifically based reading research in order to be acceptable for teacher certificate
5 renewal; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
7 General Assembly urges all institutions of higher education in Maryland that receive
8 State funds to:

9 (1) provide teacher education reading programs that are aligned with
10 the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and

11 (2) as part of a balanced, scientifically based reading curriculum, revise
12 their undergraduate and continuing education courses to place strong emphasis on:

13 (i) phonemic awareness;

14 (ii) phonics;

15 (iii) vocabulary development;

16 (iv) fluency; and

17 (v) comprehension; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
19 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
20 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
21 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable
22 Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools; and the Honorable William E.
23 Kirwan, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.