
By: **Senators Hogan, Astle, Currie, Green, Hollinger, and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Higher Education - Commission to Study Maryland's Commitment to Higher**
3 **Education**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a commission to study the coordination, funding,
5 educational delivery, and State commitment to higher education in the State;
6 providing for the membership and appointment of the chairman of the
7 commission; requiring the commission to solicit the views of certain groups in its
8 deliberations; requiring the commission to engage certain services to conduct a
9 certain study; requiring the commission to report its findings and
10 recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly; providing for the
11 staffing of the commission; providing for certain notice procedures for meetings
12 of the commission; and generally relating to establishing a commission to study
13 higher education in the State.

14 WHEREAS, Over 15 years have passed since the General Assembly and
15 Governor created the Maryland Charter for Higher Education; and

16 WHEREAS, The General Assembly and Governor have established several
17 goals for public higher education in Maryland, including the goal of "achieving and
18 sustaining national eminence" and the goal of serving students to "maintain an
19 educated workforce in the State"; and

20 WHEREAS, A major State recession in the early 1990's dramatically affected
21 State funding for higher education; and

22 WHEREAS, A decade later, another major State recession led to reductions in
23 funding for higher education, undoing several years of significant investment in
24 higher education by the State; and

25 WHEREAS, During each recession, tuition increased significantly and
26 unexpectedly, placing a burden on Maryland students and their families; and

27 WHEREAS, Decreased State support leading to increases in tuition is a
28 pattern that occurs across the country and has resulted in some public institutions of
29 higher education placing caps on enrollment, an action that would severely harm
30 Maryland's efforts to serve a growing number of college-age students; and

1 WHEREAS, Decreased State support for Maryland's public institutions of
2 higher education has caused a reduction in student services and an increase in class
3 sizes and staff layoffs, all of which pose a threat to Maryland's progress towards
4 achieving and sustaining national eminence; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly and the Governor created a "funding
6 guideline" to measure the adequacy of funding for public higher education institutions
7 in Maryland compared to peer institutions around the country. Maryland's progress
8 towards achieving the funding guideline level has declined since fiscal year 2002; and

9 WHEREAS, A more stable funding source for higher education is necessary to
10 meet the goals of the Maryland Charter for Higher Education; and

11 WHEREAS, Several proposals were introduced during the 2004 Session of the
12 General Assembly to place limits on tuition increases or to provide predictable State
13 funding for higher education; and

14 WHEREAS, House Bill 1188, Higher Education Affordability and Access Act,
15 was passed by the General Assembly during the 2004 session and vetoed by the
16 Governor; and

17 WHEREAS, Maryland can learn from past experiences and the experiences of
18 other states in managing higher education funding and tuition increases; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That by July 1,
21 2005, the General Assembly and Governor shall establish a commission to study the
22 coordination, funding, educational delivery, and State commitment to higher
23 education in Maryland; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the commission consider methods to provide a combined
25 level of State funding support and tuition revenue to enable Maryland's public
26 institutions of higher education to meet the goals of the Maryland Charter for Higher
27 Education and the 2004 State Plan for Postsecondary Education, and compete with
28 peer institutions across the country. The commission shall also consider other issues
29 related to State funding and tuition revenue for public institutions of higher
30 education; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the commission be composed of:

32 (1) Four members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
33 of the Senate;

34 (2) Four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
35 the House;

36 (3) The Secretary of Higher Education;

37 (4) The Secretary of Budget and Management;

1 (5) The President of the University of Maryland, College Park, or a
2 designee of that President;

3 (6) The President of the University of Maryland University College or a
4 designee of that President;

5 (7) The President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, or a
6 designee of that President;

7 (8) The President of Morgan State University or a designee of that
8 President;

9 (9) The President of The Johns Hopkins University or a designee of that
10 President;

11 (10) One member of the Board of Regents of the University System of
12 Maryland;

13 (11) The Chancellor of the University System of Maryland or a designee of
14 the Chancellor.

15 (12) One community college president, appointed jointly by the President
16 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

17 (13) Three members of the business community, appointed jointly by the
18 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, one of whom must be a member
19 of the Technology Council of Maryland, one of whom must be a member of the
20 Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, and one of whom must be a member of
21 the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and

22 (14) Two members of the public appointed by the Governor, one of whom
23 must have experience in business, finance, or management; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the chairman of the commission shall be jointly appointed
25 by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the commission shall solicit the views of the public,
28 stakeholders in higher education in Maryland, and leading national experts in higher
29 education; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the commission shall engage the services of a consultant to
31 conduct a study of the linkage of tuition policy, State support to higher education
32 institutions, and institutional and State financial aid in order to develop a
33 postsecondary education model to meet the goals established in the 2004 State Plan
34 for Postsecondary Education to maintain the accessibility and affordability of
35 Maryland's higher education institutions; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the commission shall review options and make
37 recommendations relating to the establishment of a consistent and stable funding

1 mechanism to ensure accessibility and affordability while at the same time promoting
2 policies to achieve national eminence at Maryland's public institutions of higher
3 education; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the commission report its findings and recommendations to
5 the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to
6 the General Assembly by July 1, 2006; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That staff for the commission shall be provided and coordinated
8 by the Department of Legislative Services. The Department of Budget and
9 Management, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the University
10 System of Maryland shall also assign staff to assist the commission. Notice of each
11 meeting of the commission shall be made public by delivering a copy of the meeting
12 notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room B-6, Department of Legislative
13 Services, Legislative Services Building, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland
14 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than Tuesday afternoon at 4:00
15 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be it further

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