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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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
 Senate action: Adopted  
 Read second time: March 20, 2005

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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 designated the  
 16 University of Maryland, College Park as the flagship institution; and

17 WHEREAS, The General Assembly and Governor have established several  
 18 goals for public higher education in Maryland, including the goal of "achieving and  
 19 sustaining national eminence", the goal of placing the flagship campus "among the  
 20 upper echelon of its peer institutions", and the goal of serving students to "maintain  
 21 an educated workforce in the State"; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 ~~WHEREAS, House Bill 1188, Higher Education Affordability and Access Act,~~  
21 ~~was passed by the General Assembly during the 2004 session and vetoed by the~~  
22 ~~Governor; and~~

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

26 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That by July 1,  
27 2005, the General Assembly and Governor shall establish a commission to study the  
28 coordination, funding, educational delivery, and State commitment to higher  
29 education in Maryland; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the commission consider methods to provide a combined  
31 level of State funding support and tuition revenue to enable Maryland's public  
32 institutions of higher education to meet the goals of the Maryland Charter for Higher  
33 Education, including enhancement of the flagship campus, and the 2004 State Plan  
34 for Postsecondary Education, and compete successfully with designated peer  
35 institutions across the country. The commission shall also consider other issues  
36 related to State funding and tuition revenue for public institutions of higher  
37 education; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That the commission be composed of:

3 UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

1 (1) ~~Four~~ Three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
2 President of the Senate;

3 (2) ~~Four~~ Three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
4 Speaker of the House;

5 (3) The Secretary of Higher Education;

6 (4) The Secretary of Budget and Management;

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

9 (6) The President of the University of Maryland University College or a  
10 designee of that President;

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

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

15 (9) The President of Towson University or a designee of that President;

16 ~~(9)~~ (10) The President of The Johns Hopkins University or a designee of  
17 that President;

18 ~~(10)~~ ~~One member of the Board of Regents of the University System of~~  
19 ~~Maryland;~~

20 (11) The President of the Maryland Independent College and University  
21 Association;

22 ~~(11)~~ (12) The Chancellor of the University System of Maryland or a  
23 designee of the Chancellor;

24 ~~(12)~~ (13) One community college president, appointed jointly by the  
25 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

26 (14) The Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community  
27 Colleges;

28 ~~(13)~~ (15) ~~Three~~ Four members of the business community, appointed  
29 jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, ~~one of whom~~  
30 ~~must be a member of the Technology Council of Maryland, one of whom must be a~~  
31 ~~member of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, and one of whom must~~  
32 ~~be a member of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce~~ from among the following  
33 organizations:

34 (i) The Technology Council of Maryland;

1 (ii) The Maryland Business Roundtable for Education;

2 (iii) The Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

3 (iv) The Greater Washington Board of Trades; and

4 (v) The Greater Baltimore Committee; and

5 (~~14~~) (16) ~~Two~~ Three members of the public appointed by the Governor,  
6 one of whom must have experience in business, finance, or management; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the chairman of the commission shall be jointly appointed  
9 by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House; and be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the commission shall solicit the views of the public,  
12 stakeholders in higher education in Maryland, and leading national experts in higher  
13 education; and be it further

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

20 RESOLVED, That the commission shall review options and make  
21 recommendations relating to the establishment of a consistent and stable funding  
22 mechanism to ensure accessibility and affordability while at the same time promoting  
23 policies to achieve national eminence at Maryland's public institutions of higher  
24 education; and be it further

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

28 RESOLVED, That staff for the commission shall be provided and coordinated  
29 by the Department of Legislative Services. The Department of Budget and  
30 Management, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the University  
31 System of Maryland shall also assign staff to assist the commission. Notice of each  
32 meeting of the commission shall be made public by delivering a copy of the meeting  
33 notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room B-6, Department of Legislative  
34 Services, Legislative Services Building, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland  
35 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than Tuesday afternoon at 4:00  
36 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
38 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;

- 1 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
- 2 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.