
By: **Delegates Aumann, Anderson, Barkley, Bartlett, Bohanan, Boteler, Bromwell, Burns, V. Clagett, Cluster, DeBoy, Eckardt, Elliott, Franchot, Frank, Gilleland, Goodwin, Haddaway, Haynes, Hixson, Jameson, Jennings, Jones, Kach, Kaiser, Kelly, King, Kirk, Krebs, Kullen, Leopold, Levy, Malone, Marriott, Mayer, McKee, McMillan, Minnick, Morhaim, Murray, Myers, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Paige, Shank, Shewell, Smigiel, Stocksdale, Stull, Trueschler, F. Turner, Weir, Weldon, Wood, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Higher Education - International Educational Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of supporting and encouraging the inclusion and expansion of
4 international educational programs in institutions of higher education in the
5 State that include foreign language study, study abroad, and communication
6 between students of different cultures and nations; and generally relating to
7 international education programs and institutions of higher education.

8 WHEREAS, The need exists for a greater global perspective of the world and
9 understanding the importance of international educational programs in helping
10 Maryland citizens prepare for productive lives in today's changing and interconnected
11 society; and

12 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush launched the National Security
13 Language Initiative to strengthen national security and prosperity in the 21st
14 century; and

15 WHEREAS, A survey by NAFSA: Association of International Educators found
16 that an overwhelming majority of Americans believe that international educational
17 programs including foreign language study, study abroad, and interacting with
18 students of other cultures, is important in making their children more competitive in
19 the job market; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution
21 designating 2006 the "Year of Study Abroad" and encouraging secondary schools,
22 higher education institutions, businesses, and governments to promote and expand
23 study abroad opportunities; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States Congress established a bipartisan Commission
25 on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program that has set a goal of 1,000,000
26 students studying abroad annually by 2016-2017; and

1 WHEREAS, There is a need for institutions of higher education to provide the
2 international educational programs and resources for teaching foreign languages,
3 communications, and understanding cultural differences and world issues; and

4 WHEREAS, The preparation of leaders in Maryland depends on their education
5 and ability to understand the challenges, cultural differences, and opportunities of an
6 interconnected world; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2005, nearly 14,000 international students and their
8 dependents contributed \$292,600,000 to the economy of Maryland; and

9 WHEREAS, International exchange programs are needed to encourage
10 students and faculty from other countries to study and work in Maryland, and to
11 develop life-long friendships and economic partnerships; and

12 WHEREAS, Texas, Kentucky, and New Jersey have passed similar resolutions
13 concerning the support of international educational programs in institutions of higher
14 education; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
16 universities and colleges of Maryland be encouraged to promote and participate in
17 international educational programs and activities to enhance the teaching of foreign
18 languages, study abroad, intercultural communications, and to support the
19 understanding and respect for peoples of other countries; and be it further

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