

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Senators Haines, Colburn, Greenip, Harris, and Simonaire**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Celebrate Freedom Week in Public Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of urging local boards of education in the State to establish Celebrate
4 Freedom Week during the month of September by instituting a curriculum in
5 the public schools designed to instill a sense of the sacrifices made during the
6 founding of this country and the values upon which this country was founded.

7 WHEREAS, The sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and
8 the values on which this country was founded are deserving of special recognition by
9 public school students; and

10 WHEREAS, Social studies classes could be supplemented with at least 3 hours
11 of instruction, as determined by each local board of education, to educate public school
12 students regarding the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of
13 Independence and the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their
14 historical contexts; and

15 WHEREAS, The study of the Declaration of Independence should include the
16 relationship of the ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history,
17 including the relationship of its ideas to the rich diversity of our people in this nation
18 of immigrants, the American Revolution, the formulation of the United States
19 Constitution, and the abolitionist movement, which led to the Emancipation
20 Proclamation and the women's suffrage movement; and

21 WHEREAS, These concepts would be reinforced through the recitation by
22 students in grade levels 3 through 12, at the beginning of each school day, of an

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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1 excerpt of the Declaration of Independence, such as, “We hold these truths to be
2 self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator
3 with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of
4 Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,
5 deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed”; now, therefore, be it

6 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the local
7 boards of education in the State are respectfully urged to develop and institute a
8 Celebrate Freedom Week curriculum during the month of September designed to
9 instill a sense of the sacrifices made during the founding of this country and the values
10 upon which this country was founded; and be it further

11 **RESOLVED**, That in developing Celebrate Freedom Week, local boards of
12 education should provide for the exemption of students from the recitation of excerpts
13 from the Declaration of Independence:

14 (1) on written request from the student’s parent or guardian;

15 (2) on the basis of a conscientious objection to the recitation; or

16 (3) by virtue of being the child of a representative of a foreign
17 government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity; and
18 be it further

19 **RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
20 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O’Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
21 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
22 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.