

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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By: **Senator Conway**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of
Session

Introduced and read first time: March 10, 2008

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Birth of Enoch Pratt – Bicentennial Celebration**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to dedicate 2008, the bicentennial of the
4 birth of Enoch Pratt, to the memory and honor of Enoch Pratt.

5 WHEREAS, In 1848, Enoch Pratt became a patron of the Maryland Institute for
6 the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts, known today as the Maryland Institute College of
7 Art, and donated its landmark bell and clock tower; and

8 WHEREAS, From 1848 through 1893, Enoch Pratt served as a Trustee of the
9 First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, served as the Treasurer of the church from 1848
10 through 1860, and served as the President of the church for many years thereafter;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In 1854, Enoch Pratt began service as a Director of the
13 Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad, eventually serving as Vice President
14 of the railroad; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1857, Enoch Pratt became a member of the Board of the Spring
16 Grove Asylum; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1859, Enoch Pratt began service as a Treasurer of the Board of
18 Trustees of the Peabody Institute and served on the Board of Trustees for many years
19 thereafter; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1860, Enoch Pratt was elected President of the Farmers' and
21 Planters' National Bank, serving for 36 years, in addition to his service as President of
22 the Baltimore Clearing House and the Maryland Bankers Association; and



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1 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, Enoch Pratt supported the United States
2 government with supplies and transportation and invested a considerable amount of
3 his personal assets in United States government bonds; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1865, Enoch Pratt endowed a free school for boys and girls in his
5 birthplace of Middleborough, Massachusetts, stipulating that it should have a
6 “circulating library...for the free use of all the inhabitants...”; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1867, Enoch Pratt assisted in founding the Maryland Asylum for
8 the Deaf and Dumb, known today as the Maryland School for the Deaf, and served as
9 President of the Board; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1870, Enoch Pratt donated his farm of 752 acres in Prince
11 George’s County, known as Cheltenham, to the House of Reformation and Instruction
12 for Colored Children, which began operation in 1873, and he served as President of the
13 Board of Governors for many years thereafter; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1870, Enoch Pratt established the Workingman’s Institute and
15 Library in the neighborhood of Canton in Baltimore City; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1872, Enoch Pratt purchased the Maryland Steamboat
17 Company, giving him control of Chesapeake Bay boat traffic, in addition to serving as
18 a Director of the Susquehanna Canal Company for more than 25 years; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1877, Enoch Pratt began many years of service as a Municipal
20 Finance Commissioner in Baltimore City; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1879, Enoch Pratt donated a substantial amount of money and
22 all the building materials for the building of the parish hall at the First Independent
23 Church, known today as the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, at 514 N. Charles
24 Street in Baltimore City; and

25 WHEREAS, After many years of personal research and study, Enoch Pratt
26 established the public library system in Baltimore, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, with
27 a main library and four branches, and he donated \$1,250,000 to Baltimore City for the
28 library on the condition that Baltimore City continue to fund the library in perpetuity;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, In 1884, with the assistance of Enoch Pratt, the Baltimore Home
31 for Incurables, known today as the Keswick Home for Incurables, was founded; and

32 WHEREAS, In 1891, Enoch Pratt donated property to build the Unitarian
33 Church in Middleborough, Massachusetts; and

34 WHEREAS, In 1892, Enoch Pratt deeded the Hoffman estate at the corner of
35 Cathedral and Franklin Streets to the Maryland Academy of Sciences, which today
36 operates the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore City; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1893, Enoch Pratt donated the Henry Niemann organ to the
2 First Independent Church in honor of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the
3 church; and

4 WHEREAS, Enoch Pratt died on September 19, 1896, and his bequests included
5 the Meadville Theological School, known today as the Meadville Lombard Theological
6 School in Chicago, a church and library in his birthplace of Middleborough,
7 Massachusetts, the Boys' Home Society of Baltimore, and the Sheppard Asylum,
8 known today as the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital; and

9 WHEREAS, In March, 1882, the General Assembly of Maryland adopted a joint
10 resolution resolving "...that the name of Enoch Pratt be added to the list of those
11 public benefactors whom the people of Maryland will hold in perpetual and grateful
12 remembrance; and it is further resolved, that in placing this acknowledgement and
13 tribute upon the permanent records of the State it is the desire and purpose of the
14 General Assembly not merely to signify their appreciation of a great and disinterested
15 public service, but especially to honor a conspicuous example of the patriotism and
16 public spirit which give to wealth its largest dignity and lift it to its highest uses."; and

17 WHEREAS, The First Unitarian Church of Baltimore is coordinating the 2008
18 celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of Enoch Pratt and, in September, 2008,
19 will formally dedicate the parish hall of the church to be the Enoch Pratt Parish Hall;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
22 Governor dedicate 2008, the bicentennial of the birth of Enoch Pratt, to the memory
23 and honor of Enoch Pratt in recognition of the significance of the many institutions
24 throughout Maryland that bear his name and the ongoing impact of his philanthropy
25 throughout the State 200 years after his birth; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
27 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
28 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
29 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.