

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

P1

8lr3502

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

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, March 21, 2008

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 29, 2008

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.



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

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

7 WHEREAS, In 1865, Enoch Pratt endowed a free school for boys and girls in his
8 birthplace of Middleborough, Massachusetts, stipulating that it should have a
9 "circulating library...for the free use of all the inhabitants..."; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, In 1870, Enoch Pratt established the Workingman's Institute and
18 Library in the neighborhood of Canton in Baltimore City; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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