

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

Senate Joint Resolution 6 (Senator Gladden)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

Earth Hour

This joint resolution expresses the General Assembly's recognition of Earth Hour as 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the last Saturday in March of each year; urges all Marylanders to observe Earth Hour; and urges the Governor to order that the lights in the Government House and State Capitol complex be turned off during Earth Hour.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with this joint resolution will not materially affect State finances. Assuming the Governor orders that the lights in the Government House and State Capitol complex be turned off during Earth Hour, any decrease in energy expenditures will be negligible.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Earth Hour is the World Wildlife Fund's global initiative to encourage individuals, schools, organizations, businesses, and governments to turn off their lights for one hour to show support for actions to address climate change. In 2009, nearly one billion individuals participated in Earth Hour, involving more than 4,000 cities in 87 countries. An estimated 80 million Americans in 318 cities and eight states participated. In 2010, Earth Hour was held on March 27 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Additional Comments: In certain years, the last Saturday in March falls on “crossover weekend,” when the General Assembly chambers are traditionally in session to meet the crossover deadline. Turning off the lights in the State Capitol complex to recognize Earth Hour could disrupt the General Assembly’s work to the extent either chamber would otherwise be in session or staff work would otherwise be conducted during the affected hour.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HJ 9 (Delegate Carter, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Governor’s Office, Maryland Energy Administration, World Wildlife Fund, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2010
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