

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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By: **Senator Jones–Rodwell**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **International Education and Foreign Exchange Programs – Support**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the State Board of Education to encourage students,  
4 teachers, administrators, and policymakers to participate in international  
5 education and foreign exchange programs; urging the State Department of  
6 Education to take certain steps; and generally relating to the support of  
7 international education and foreign exchange programs.

8 WHEREAS, The economic and cultural structure of our world is becoming  
9 increasingly global in scope and perspective; and

10 WHEREAS, Knowledge of other cultures, economies, and systems of  
11 government is becoming an increasingly necessary skill for future leaders and  
12 workers; and

13 WHEREAS, In Maryland, the diversity of languages, cultures, and ethnic  
14 backgrounds is expanding, requiring both Maryland educators and students to develop  
15 global communication skills and understanding; and

16 WHEREAS, International education and foreign exchange programs offer  
17 educators and students the opportunity to learn about foreign nations, cultures, and  
18 customs; and

19 WHEREAS, These programs offer educators and students the opportunity to  
20 develop lifelong friendships and professional relationships as well as developing new  
21 methods of teaching and learning; and

22 WHEREAS, These programs offer educators and students the ability to develop  
23 increased awareness of diverse ideas, values, world views, and ways of life; and

24 WHEREAS, Participation in international education and foreign exchange  
25 programs offers educators and students a view of countries with vastly different



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1 systems of government, social and cultural beliefs, and economic standards, increasing  
2 the appreciation these educators and students have for the American system of  
3 government, economy, and basic personal freedoms when they return to the United  
4 States; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

6 (a) The State Board of Education is urged to encourage students, teachers,  
7 administrators, and educational policymakers to participate in international education  
8 and foreign exchange programs and other activities that advance cultural awareness  
9 and promote mutual understanding and respect for citizens of other countries; and

10 (b) The State Department of Education is urged to:

11 (1) Identify international opportunities for learning and educational  
12 exchange programs and appropriate curriculum materials; and

13 (2) Provide information to local boards of education that will increase  
14 the awareness of Maryland educators and students of other cultures, languages,  
15 economies, and systems of government; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
17 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the  
18 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the  
19 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; James H.  
20 DeGraffenreidt, Jr., President, State Board of Education; and Bernard J. Sadusky,  
21 Interim State Superintendent of Schools.