

Joint Resolution 1

(Senate Joint Resolution 1)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2026 FIFA World Cup – Protection of Human Rights

FOR the purpose of supporting the fundamental requirements for United 2026 as laid out in FIFA’s “Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy”; and encouraging certain persons to provide certain atmospheres, experiences, and policies for certain individuals at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

WHEREAS, The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Men’s World Cup Tournament is the largest sporting event in the world by every measurable factor; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico (United 2026) will be held in 16 cities with up to 12 of the bidding U.S. cities expected to be awarded tournament games; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. have been selected among the final 16 bidding cities, with M&T Bank Stadium and FedEx Field proposed as game sites and the fields at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus and Towson University as team practice fields; and

WHEREAS, FIFA estimates there will be between 300 and 500 million dollars of economic activity in each host city, affecting multiple sectors of the economy, including hospitality, transportation, entertainment and broadcasting, event staging, security services, and construction, impacting State, county, and municipal employees; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore–Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport is strategically located for the arrival and departure of thousands of international fans; and

WHEREAS, FIFA and the host countries are committed to creating a new model and legacy for global sporting events, one that centers on human rights and labor rights within the framework for the games; and

WHEREAS, FIFA adopted a “Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy”, which in part states that FIFA plans to ensure a commitment to the core standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its processes for conducting the 2026 FIFA games; and

WHEREAS, The human rights requirements for the 2026 FIFA World Cup are the most extensive ever contemplated for a mega sporting event to protect human rights and improve quality of life in key areas such as labor, procurement and supply chain, freedom

of expression, women, children, LGBTQI+ community, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and people of diverse ethnicities, races, and religions; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland has passed laws directly in line with the requirements for bid cities for the 2026 FIFA games, including broad antidiscrimination and human rights protections, living wage and minimum wage requirements, prevailing wage requirements, and human trafficking protections and awareness, and has defeated right-to-work legislation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly supports the fundamental requirements for United 2026 as laid out in FIFA's "Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly encourages all host stadiums, cities, ports of entry, and fan zones to provide the following for fans, spectators, players, officials, and volunteers at the 2026 FIFA World Cup:

(1) a fun, safe, inclusive, respectful, and tolerant atmosphere for everyone regardless of gender or gender identity;

(2) an accessible, inclusive, welcoming experience for people with physical, mental, and sensory disabilities or with limited mobility;

(3) policies to ensure that free speech and assembly, directly or indirectly related to preparing and hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup, are guaranteed within the framework set by national and international law;

(4) an atmosphere that celebrates diversity and welcomes international fans and players, providing fundamental government protections and due process to every person;

(5) policies to ensure that the ILO core standards – freedom of association, nondiscrimination, no forced labor, and no child laborers – are respected in relation to those working on any activity related to the delivery of the competition;

(6) policies to ensure that all employers, public and private, providing goods or services related to the delivery of the competition implement best practices on labor issues, adhere to labor laws, pay a living wage, and allow workers of any status to raise issues related to their employment; and

(7) policies to ensure that there is no human trafficking in connection with the event and raise awareness of trafficking prevention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly commits to the principles of FIFA's "Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy" for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and seizes this unique opportunity to support a blueprint for fundamental human and labor rights,

pay equity for female athletes competing in the 2026 FIFA Women's World Cup, transparency, inclusiveness, and sustainability for future development; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to:

(1) the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, David J. Trone, ~~Elijah E. Cummings~~ the Representative from the seventh Congressional District, and Jamie Raskin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and

(2) the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.