

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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By: **The Speaker (Governor's Salary Commission)**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. _____

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Governor's Salary Commission and General Assembly Compensation**
3 **Commission - Salary Recommendations for Governor and Lieutenant**
4 **Governor**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the salaries to be paid the Governor and Lieutenant
6 Governor, as directed by Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution, for
7 the 4-year term of office beginning January 17, 2007; in accordance with the
8 provisions of Article III, Section 15 of the Maryland Constitution, rejecting
9 certain items included in the Resolution of the General Assembly Compensation
10 Commission dated January 11, 2006, that address proposed changes to
11 in-district travel and the Legislative Pension Plan for members of the General
12 Assembly; providing that the allowance for in-district travel and the provisions
13 of the Legislative Pension Plan shall remain at the levels set by the Resolution
14 of the General Assembly Compensation Commission dated January 11, 2002;
15 and generally relating to recommendations of the Governor's Salary
16 Commission and the General Assembly Compensation Commission.

17 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution established a
18 seven member Governor's Salary Commission comprised of the State Treasurer, three
19 members appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members appointed by
20 the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The Governor's Salary Commission is
21 currently constituted as follows: Nancy K. Kopp, State Treasurer; Barry Gossett,
22 Robert R. Neall, and James L. Shea appointed by the President of the Senate; John
23 Dillon, George L. Russell, Jr., and Albert (Buz) Winchester III appointed by the
24 Speaker of the House of Delegates. The Commission elected George L. Russell, Jr. as
25 Chairman; and

~~1 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution,
2 this Joint Resolution may be amended to decrease, but not increase, the salaries
3 recommended by the Governor's Salary Commission. The salaries may not be
4 decreased below their January 2006 levels. If the General Assembly fails to adopt a
5 Joint Resolution in accordance with Article II, Section 21A within 50 calendar days
6 after introduction of this Joint Resolution, the salaries recommended by the
7 Governor's Salary Commission shall apply effective January 17, 2007. If the General
8 Assembly amends this Joint Resolution, the salaries specified in the Joint Resolution,
9 as amended, shall apply; and~~

~~10 WHEREAS, At the meetings, conducted from November through December
11 2005, the Commission evaluated gubernatorial compensation relative to a number of
12 principles: growth in the responsibilities of the office, compensation commensurate
13 with the stature of this high office, changes in the cost of living, maintenance of a
14 reasonable differential between the Governor's salary and of other major State
15 officials in Maryland, and acceptable comparability with salaries of the governors of
16 other states. The Commission selected tentative salaries for the two offices and
17 solicited public views regarding its proposals. Thereafter, the Commission made its
18 final determinations which are presented in this Resolution and discussed in the
19 Commission's Report, dated January 2006; now, therefore, be it~~

20 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That pursuant
21 to Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution, the annual salaries
22 recommended by the Governor's Salary Commission be adopted as follows, to be
23 effective January 17, 2007, for the 4-year term of office:

24 Governor: \$150,000; and

25 For the first year, \$155,000;

26 For the second year, \$160,000;

27 For the third year, \$165,000; and

28 For the fourth year, \$170,000; and

29 Lieutenant Governor: \$125,000; and be it further

30 For the first year, \$129,167;

31 For the second year, \$133,333;

32 For the third year, \$137,500; and

33 For the fourth year, \$141,667; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That:

35 (a) In accordance with the authority granted under Article III, Section 15 of
36 the Maryland Constitution, the General Assembly rejects the recommendations for

1 changes in the allowance for in-district travel and for changes in the retirement
2 benefits available to legislators in the Legislative Pension Plan submitted in the
3 Resolution of the General Assembly Compensation Commission dated January 11,
4 2006;

5 (b) Items 2C and 3A of the Resolution of the General Assembly Compensation
6 Commission dated January 11, 2006, shall be void and provisions related to the
7 allowance for in-district travel and the retirement benefits available to legislators in
8 the Legislative Pension Plan shall be as provided in the Resolution of the General
9 Assembly Compensation Commission dated January 11, 2002; and

10 (c) The other items related to compensation and allowances to members of the
11 General Assembly shall be as provided in the Resolution of the General Assembly
12 Compensation Commission dated January 11, 2006; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
14 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
15 the Honorable Michael S. Steele, Lieutenant Governor; the Honorable Thomas V.
16 Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable Michael E.
17 Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and Cecilia Januszkiewicz, Secretary of
18 Budget and Management.