

No. 56

(House Joint Resolution 15)

House Joint Resolution commending the Joint Executive-Legislative Committee on Assateague Island for its thorough and enlightening Report, and urging the Governor of Maryland to implement the Committee's recommendation.

A Joint Executive-Legislative Committee was appointed by Governor Marvin Mandel in August 1971 to study the advisability of selling Maryland's portion of Assateague Island to the Federal Government. In addition, the Governor charged the Committee to review all aspects of the ownership, development, and utilization of Assateague Island and to make recommendations as to the proper course to be taken by the State.

Basically, the three main recommendations of the Report are:

(1) The State of Maryland shall retain ownership of its portion of Assateague Island and not sell it to the Federal government.

(2) Any development taking place on Assateague Island will be limited in scope so as not to disturb the natural ecological structure of the Island.

(3) Whatever steps necessary will be taken to prevent building of a Federal highway through the State portion of the Island.

The Committee submitted its report to the Governor in March of 1972, incorporating its findings and recommendations.

The Chairman of the Joint Committee, the Honorable Vladimir A. Wahbe, Secretary of State Planning, appeared before the House Environmental Matters Committee on September 5, 1972. He discussed the report with the House Committee and advised the members that it had been favorably received by various Maryland State officials, the United States Department of the Interior, and officials of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The House Environmental Matters Committee joins with others in its favorable impression of this important study, wishes to commend the Joint Committee for its thorough and enlightening report, and suggests the implementation of the recommendations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Joint Executive-Legislative Committee on Assateague Island be commended for its thorough and enlightening Report; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Governor of Maryland is urged to take the necessary steps to implement the recommendations of the Joint Committee Report; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Marvin Mandel, Secretary Vladimir Wahbe, United States Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton, and Governor Linwood Holton of Virginia.

Approved May 24, 1973.
