

products--when--exposed--to--heat--and--fire--in--construction--and--furnishing--buildings,--shall--study--whether--these--problems--can--be--addressed--adequately--under--existing--building--codes--and--other--laws,--and--if--appropriate,--shall--recommend--changes--in--regulations--and--legislation--it--considers--necessary,--and--be--it--further

RESOLVED,--That--the--Task--Force--report--its--findings--and--recommendations--to--the--General--Assembly--and--Governor--by--January--1,--1986,--and--be--it--further

RESOLVED,--That--staff--for--the--Task--Force--be--provided--by--the--Governor's--Office,--and--be--it--further

RESOLVED,--That--the--members--of--the--Task--Force--may--not--receive--compensation--but--may--be--reimbursed--for--expenses--in--accordance--with--State--Standard--Travel--Regulations.

Building Materials - Combustibility, Flammability, and  
Fire Gas Toxicity

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to appoint a Task Force to study deaths resulting from building fires, the contribution of building materials to building fire deaths, and the factors of combustion, smoke, and toxic combustion products produced when such building materials are burned or subjected to high temperatures; assessing the current state of the art in fire hazard analysis and what research is currently being done by the federal government, universities, research institutions, standards organizations, and any other entities, to improve fire safety in Maryland; providing direction for the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force and its work.

WHEREAS, It has long been recognized that most deaths associated with fires are the result of inhalation of smoke and/or toxic gases, and not the fire itself, and that most of these deaths occur in homes, and because materials used in the construction of furnishings of homes, offices, or other buildings occupied by humans may produce toxic gases and smoke in various quantities when heated or burned, therefore, an understanding of combustion products of building materials may result in more effective prevention of fire deaths;

WHEREAS, The relationship between the fire deaths and the ease of ignition, rate of heat release, smoke development, toxic combustion products, and other factors, such as detection devices and new development of quick response sprinklers, may require that the government reexamine the regulation of the use of materials for constructing and furnishing buildings, fire safety systems, and detection and suppression, or other remedies; and

WHEREAS, The long-term effects of toxic combustion products on the health of the public is generally unknown, and the effects of these products on the health of fire fighters may require additional evaluation of protective equipment, physical fitness,