

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

No. 6

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 16)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Indoor Air Quality

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to establish a Task Force on Indoor Air Quality to study the extent of the existence of dangerous levels of indoor air pollutants in homes and buildings in Maryland and to make recommendations for improving indoor air quality.

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that most Americans spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in the late 1970's, as interest in energy conservation increased, new weatherization and building tightening techniques were developed; and

WHEREAS, While these energy conservation methods did reduce our energy needs they also contributed to the trapping and buildup of indoor air pollutants because of the lack of appropriate ventilation; and

WHEREAS, ~~The issues related to passive smoking represent additional concerns about our indoor air quality; and~~

WHEREAS, ~~Another pollutant that may adversely affect indoor air quality is formaldehyde --- a common ingredient in plywood and particle board; and~~

WHEREAS, ~~Formaldehyde can produce health effects ranging from acute nausea, eye irritation, and respiratory impairment to more serious long-term effects such as cancer; and~~

WHEREAS, Additional attention needs to be focused on the causes and solutions to "Sick Building Syndrome" where the indoor air in office buildings and schools is adversely affecting the health of the occupants; and

WHEREAS, Indoor air pollution presents an increased risk to the health of the elderly, women, and children who spend much of their days indoors; and

WHEREAS, Indoor air pollution thus constitutes a real threat to the health and well-being of virtually every American; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to establish a Task Force on Indoor Air Quality to study the existence of dangerous levels of indoor air