

No. 6.

Joint Resolution pertaining to the defence of the Sea Coast of the United States from a foreign foe.

WHEREAS in time of peace every nation ought to prepare for war; and

Preamble.

WHEREAS the armored ships and heavy ordnance in use, generally, in the Navies of the various nations of the world, require for adequate defence on land the best fortifications and heaviest guns that ingenuity and money can provide; and

Preamble.

WHEREAS Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries pass through and under possible access by war vessels to the finest sections of Maryland and Virginia, including also the District of Columbia and the National Capital, as also a means of interrupting or destroying a large and valuable section of American commerce by an enemy; and

Preamble.

WHEREAS the entrance to Chesapeake Bay is of such a character that defence by torpedoes is difficult, if not impossible, and can only be defended, if at all, by armored ships of war, monitors or other floating batteries, against a hostile fleet; and

Preamble.

WHEREAS by reason of the prohibition of the Federal Constitution the several States are incompetent to make any provisions for their own defence, and the revenues and finances of the United States are in such a condition as to warrant the expenditure of a sufficient sum of money for the defence of the Sea Coast of the United States; therefore,

Preamble.