

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to appoint a Task Force to study the problems associated with toxic combustion products produced or released when certain materials are burned or subjected to high temperatures, directing the Task Force to study the effects of these combustion products on humans, whether building codes provide adequate regulation of materials that produce toxic combustion products, and whether legislation is required to address this problem effectively, providing for the membership of the Task Force, and generally relating to a study of the problems associated with materials that produce toxic combustion products.

WHEREAS, it has long been recognized that most deaths associated with fires are most frequently the result of smoke inhalation and not the fire itself, and

WHEREAS, it has recently been discovered that some materials, which are commonly used in the constructing or furnishing of homes, offices, and other buildings occupied by humans, when burned or subjected to high temperatures, release toxic gases such as phosgene, the highly effective poison gas used as a weapon during World War I, hydrogen chloride, and other compounds that are frequently lethal to human beings even in minute concentrations, and

WHEREAS, the relationship between fire deaths and toxic combustion products from various types of materials is only now becoming understood and may require that government reexamine the regulation of the uses of these materials for constructing and furnishing buildings, and

WHEREAS, the long-term effects of these toxic combustion products on the health of those exposed to them, especially fire fighters, while not fully understood, gives cause for grave concern about the well-being of these valued public servants who protect our property from catastrophe, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to establish a Task Force to Study the Flammability and Toxicity of Smoke from Building Materials, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force be composed of:

(1) A member of the Maryland District of Columbia Professional Fire Fighters Association,

(2) A member of the International Association of Fire Fighters,

(3) A member of the Maryland State Volunteer Fireman's Association,

(4) 2 members of the State Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate,