

No. 18

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 35)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Highway Deicing Salts and Chemicals - Effects on Chesapeake Bay

FOR the purpose of establishing a task force to study the effects on the Chesapeake Bay of salts and other chemicals used to deice highways.

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is a natural resource of inestimable value to the State and the nation; and

WHEREAS, This State has acknowledged the great importance of the Chesapeake Bay by taking measures to restore and protect the Bay, its tributaries, and adjacent lands; and

WHEREAS, Salts and other chemicals used to deice highways may have a detrimental effect on soils, vegetation, and surface and groundwater supplies, thereby negating the positive efforts made to clean up the Bay and to protect its delicate ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, In order to truly protect the Chesapeake Bay, road deicing chemicals with potentially serious negative impacts on the Bay, must be carefully studied and weighed against the alternatives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Legislative Policy Committee is requested to establish a task force to study the effects on the Chesapeake Bay of salts and other chemicals used to deice highways; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the task force be composed of:

(1) 2 members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and 2 members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(2) 2 representatives of the Department of Transportation, including a representative of the State Highway Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Transportation; and

(3) A representative from the Department of Natural Resources appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources, and a representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the task force designate its own Chairman; and be it further