

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

~~investigate--and--evaluate--the--indoor--air--quality--of--State--office--public--buildings; requiring the committee task force to submit a report of its findings and certain recommendations to the Secretary; requiring the Secretary to transmit the committee's task force report to certain State officials by a certain date; and generally relating to the investigation and evaluation of the indoor air quality of State office public buildings~~ 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, The State of Maryland owns and maintains numerous office buildings throughout the State of Maryland in which many thousands of State employees carry out their duties as State employees on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Many of these structures are antiquated and in continual disrepair and many more recently constructed buildings are not kept in regular repair and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Many State public buildings have been constructed without any fresh ventilation available in any manner whatsoever; some State public buildings have no windows constructed in office areas; and many other buildings have windows constructed in such a fashion that they can never be opened to provide fresh air flow; and

WHEREAS, Ventilation systems and mechanical operations of air conditioning units and heating systems in many State buildings are in disrepair and frequently fail to function properly; and

WHEREAS, The general deterioration and lack of proper maintenance throughout many State office public buildings has caused and will cause illness among employees required to work in unsafe health environments; including headaches; persistent fatigue; congestion; eye irritation; nose, ear and throat infections; skin infections; and similar illnesses and problems; and

WHEREAS, Indoor air quality problems have become increasingly prevalent and known throughout the State of Maryland and elsewhere as documented by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the center for disease control; and the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Office of the State Division of Labor and Industry; and

WHEREAS, It is the basic obligation of the State of Maryland to provide a healthy work environment for its work employees; now, therefore, be it