

Joint Resolution No. 2

(House Joint Resolution No. 5)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Payment of Property Taxes – Changing to Postpayment Schedule

FOR the purpose of requesting the ~~Governor to appoint~~ Legislative Policy Committee to create a task force to study changing the schedule for payment of property taxes; providing for the membership of the task force; requiring the Department of Fiscal Services to provide staff to the task force; providing for certain notice procedures for meetings of the task force; providing for a certain report; and generally relating to a task force to study changing the schedule for payment of property taxes.

WHEREAS, Maryland has the second highest rate in the nation of real property transfer taxes and the highest net impact on home purchase prices; and

WHEREAS, The housing industry is a major factor in providing stimulation for the economy of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is one of the few states that require prepayment of real property taxes in advance; and

WHEREAS, The cost of settlement is a major factor to a homebuyer when purchasing housing; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that to reverse the payment of real property taxes to require payment at the end of a taxable year instead of at the beginning of the taxable year, the change must be phased in over an appropriate period of time to give the local governments the opportunity to factor the revenue change into the fiscal planning for their budgets; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the ~~Governor~~ Legislative Policy Committee is requested to ~~appoint~~ create a task force to study changing the payment of property taxes from the current prepayment schedule to a postpayment schedule over a multiyear period in an effort to reduce closing costs in Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the task force be composed of ~~9~~ 13 members, including:

(1) ~~A member~~ Two members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by the Speaker of the House, ~~who shall serve as chairman~~ one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the House as co-chairman of the task force;

(2) ~~A member~~ Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as co-chairman of the task force;

(3) The following members appointed by the ~~Governor~~ President of the Senate and Speaker of the House:

(i) ~~A representative of the Governor's office~~;