

WHEREAS, The results of that fateful day helped to shape the events and the outcome of the Battle of Antietam that was fought 3 days later; and

WHEREAS, The State wishes to forever remember the ultimate sacrifice made by those brave soldiers, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources, the Central Maryland Heritage League, the Friends of Washington Monument State Park, county and municipal government, tourism offices, private landowners, and others have worked closely in protecting and managing lands and interpreting Civil War events within the historical boundaries of the South Mountain Battlefield; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and right to provide Maryland's citizens and visitors to this State an opportunity to see, to learn, and to appreciate the important role that the Battle of South Mountain played in this Country's history; and

WHEREAS, Promotion of this important battle in American history will encourage tourism in Frederick County and Washington County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State of Maryland strongly supports the Department of Natural Resources' effort to study the establishment of a State park at South Mountain that encompasses the battlefield known as South Mountain, including Turner's Gap, Fox's Gap, and Crampton's Gap; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a Task Force on the South Mountain Battlefield Historic Tourism Initiative be established to assist the Department of Natural Resources in studying the establishment of a State park at South Mountain and evaluating the potential costs and benefits, and the feasibility, of establishing a State park at South Mountain, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Identifying funding sources necessary to operate the State park;
- (2) Recommending procedures for management and maintenance of the State park;
- (3) Identifying real property needs and property rights issues that need to be addressed; and to ~~ascertain~~
- (4) Ascertaining the efficacy of establishing a State park at South Mountain; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of:

- (1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (2) One representative from the Department of Natural Resources, appointed by the Governor;
- (3) One representative from the Department of Transportation, appointed by the Governor;