

WHEREAS, Maryland has two major space and flight facilities that are of great importance to the economy and security of the nation, to the advancement of knowledge, and to the quality of life and well-being of the American people; and

WHEREAS, These two facilities are the Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base, home of Air Force One; and

WHEREAS, The time is right for Maryland to more fully utilize these assets to educate and inspire our youth, their teachers, and their parents and to attract visitors and realize the economic benefits from these assets; and

WHEREAS, Other states have developed space centers and space camps in conjunction with NASA facilities in their states, and have demonstrated the great interest the American people have in visiting and learning more about our space programs, their history, and their potential; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has one of the oldest NASA facilities in the nation, and Goddard has developed such outstanding technological advances as the implantable cardioverter defibrillator, Earth Alert, Weather Anywhere, and the LIDAR topographical mapping system; and

WHEREAS, Other flight museums have obtained decommissioned Air Force One airplanes and other high-profile airplanes to create air museums and other tourist attractions, but Maryland is the home of Air Force One; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is home of the College Park airport, which is the oldest continuously active airport in the world, site of the first military flight training conducted by one of the Wright brothers, and the home of many other historic planes that are on display at nearby Smithsonian locations making Maryland a premier center for flight history, education, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Andrews Air Force Base is also the airport used by the President of the United States and other high-ranking United States officials and visiting dignitaries from all over the world as they travel in and out of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Most residents of Maryland have never visited either the Goddard Space Flight Center or Andrews Air Force Base, and most visitors to the Nation's Capitol do not include these Maryland attractions in their itinerary; and

WHEREAS, With the creation of a U.S. Space and Flight Center, highly visible and easily accessible from the Capital Beltway, tourists from all over the country could be attracted to Maryland to visit the U.S. Space and Flight Center, and students from throughout the State could take advantage of the unique educational opportunities that a space camp serving in conjunction with Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base would provide; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there is the need for a U.S. Space and Flight Center to be established in Prince George's County, Maryland in conjunction with the Goddard Space Flight Center and Andrews Air Force Base; and be it further