

Joint Resolution No. 12

(House Joint Resolution No. 14)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Task Force to Study Lighting Efficiency and Light Pollution in Maryland

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to study the cost, extent, and consequences of inefficient public lighting and light pollution in the State and benefits of alternative improvements; providing for the membership and appointment of the Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Department of General Services to coordinate the professional and administrative support of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Lighting Efficiency and Light Pollution in Maryland.

WHEREAS, State and local governments and other public bodies, including the University System of Maryland, spend millions of dollars each year on lighting roads, buildings, and campuses and are also responsible for setting lighting standards and policies throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Too often public funds are spent on lighting which is not optimally efficient, can waste both funds and energy, causes glare which does not enhance public safety and often causes light trespass and light pollution, and can threaten the very survival of amateur and professional astronomy, thereby reducing opportunity for children and others to appreciate the beauties of the night sky; and

WHEREAS, Good lighting policies save public funds while enhancing public safety; and

WHEREAS, Several agencies of State and local government have begun individually and separately to examine lighting policies and standards with the goal of enhancing efficiency, reducing cost, and reducing pollution, and would benefit from a joint examination of the problems and opportunities inherent in improved policies and practices and in exchange of information with experts such as representatives of the standards-setting ~~Illuminating Engineers Association~~ Engineering Society of North America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there is a Task Force to study the cost, extent, causes, and consequences of current public lighting standards and policies, light pollution, and the benefits of alternative policies in Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of ~~22~~ 23 members, as follows:

(1) Two members from the Senate of Maryland, designated by the President of the Senate;