

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and Brigadier General William H. Neal, Commandant of the Maryland Defense Force, Pikesville Military Reservation, 610 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD 21208-5197.

Signed May 23, 1996.

Joint Resolution No. 7

(House Joint Resolution No. 16)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Governing Local Governments Into the 21st Century

FOR the purpose of informing county and municipal governments in Maryland about the concept of performance-based governance with its reliance on performance measuring for purposes of guiding their practices and policies through the fiscal uncertainties of the 1990's and strengthening public accountability.

WHEREAS, Implications attendant to the economic uncertainty of tomorrow necessitate a commitment of preparedness on the part of county and municipal governments to successfully meet the challenges of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, Sluggish economic growth, reduced federal and State financial assistance, increased demands for services and public intolerance for additional taxes and fees underscore the importance and timeliness of further enhancing governmental efficiency and effectiveness, responsiveness, and accountability in the eyes of the public; and

WHEREAS, Emerging as a common denominator throughout the country is a shift towards a new approach of governing — a functional transformation mirroring the private sector — and it is called, performance-based governance with its reliance on performance measuring; and

WHEREAS, Performance-based governance enlightens the public to what government is doing with their tax dollars by (1) identifying a preferred vision for the future; (2) formulating goals to achieve the vision which are accomplished via realization of attendant objectives; (3) utilizing quantifiable performance measures (benchmarks) to gauge, monitor and report progress through the year 2000 and beyond; and (4) structuring policies and resource allocation decisions that are responsive to and consistent with the vision, goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, Performance-based governance represents a fundamental departure from typical governance because it is predicated upon an outcome oriented management strategy; that is, the articulation of quantifiable data useful in assessing not only how a government entity utilized its resources, but also what its citizens are receiving for the use of public funds and how efficiently and effectively those funds are being used; and