

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senator Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **State Government – Vietnamese Freedom and Heritage Flag**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Governor to recognize, by proclamation, the Freedom and  
4 Heritage flag as the official flag of the Vietnamese American community; urging the  
5 Governor to require that a certain flag, if displayed on the grounds of State buildings  
6 or institutions of higher education, be replaced by the Freedom and Heritage flag;  
7 providing that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
8 Legislative Services to certain individuals; and generally relating to the Vietnamese  
9 Freedom and Heritage flag.

10 WHEREAS, In 1975, when the Vietnam War came to a close after the fall of Saigon,  
11 Vietnamese citizens were forced to flee Vietnam in fear of the government of Vietnam's  
12 campaign of retribution and persecution; and

13 WHEREAS, The current government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a  
14 nondemocratic, one-party system of government without rule of law that arbitrarily  
15 infringes on the basic human and civil liberties of its citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is home to more than 23,000 Vietnamese  
17 Americans and other individuals of Vietnamese descent who have made positive  
18 contributions to the historical, cultural, educational, and economic prosperity of the State;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which features a yellow  
21 star on a red background, represents a source of great distress to many members of the  
22 Vietnamese American community and the display of the flag is interpreted as a lack of  
23 respect for their historic struggles; and

24 WHEREAS, In contrast, the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam, bearing three  
25 red stripes on a field of yellow, is now known as the Freedom and Heritage flag and is  
26 embraced by the vast majority of Vietnamese Americans; and



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1           WHEREAS, The Freedom and Heritage flag is seen as an important symbol of the  
2 history of Vietnam and the Vietnamese American community; now, therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General  
4 Assembly urges the Governor to recognize, by proclamation, the Freedom and Heritage flag  
5 as the official flag of the Vietnamese American community; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the Governor to require that the flag  
7 of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, if displayed on the grounds of State buildings or  
8 institutions of higher education, be replaced by the Freedom and Heritage flag; and be it  
9 further

10          RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
11 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the  
12 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
13 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.