

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13

M3, M1, C5

8lr3877

By: **Delegates Flanagan, Fraser–Hidalgo, Barve, Beidle, Carozza, Carr, Gilchrist, Jacobs, R. Lewis, Otto, and Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2018

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Opposition to Proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of expressing the strong and unequivocal opposition of the General
5 Assembly of Maryland to the draft proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas
6 Leasing Program for 2019–2024 and the implementation of any offshore oil or gas
7 leasing, exploration, development, or production in the Atlantic Ocean; urging the
8 Secretary of the Interior of the United States to remove Maryland from the proposed
9 leasing program; requiring certain committees of the General Assembly to monitor
10 and make recommendations regarding how to protect Maryland if the State is not
11 removed from the proposed leasing program; and generally relating to the draft
12 proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019–2024.

13 WHEREAS, On January 4, 2018, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States
14 announced the draft proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing
15 Program for 2019–2024, which includes nine lease sales in the Atlantic Region, three of
16 which are proposed for the Mid–Atlantic area; and

17 WHEREAS, Just a few days after announcing the proposal to open the Atlantic coast
18 to drilling, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States stated his intention to remove
19 the coast of Florida from consideration for new leases because of its reliance on tourism as
20 an economic driver; and

21 WHEREAS, The citizens of Maryland support protecting the health of the
22 Chesapeake Bay and the State’s coastal shores, as they are critical to the State’s wildlife,
23 wildlife habitats, recreational and commercial fishing industry, tourism industry, and
24 economy; and

25 WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay received a score of 34 in the Chesapeake Bay
26 Foundation’s 2016 “State of the Bay Report”, the Bay’s highest grade since the Foundation
27 began publishing the report in 1998; and



1 WHEREAS, Maryland has spent approximately \$20.4 billion on restoration efforts
2 in the Chesapeake Bay; and

3 WHEREAS, The biggest threat to the progress made in the restoration of the
4 Chesapeake Bay and to coast-related activities, including the fishing industry and tourism
5 industry, is a catastrophic oil spill; and

6 WHEREAS, A catastrophic oil spill would jeopardize the State's \$17.3 billion tourism
7 industry and \$90.7 million fishing industry, which would each suffer severe revenue losses
8 and reduced job security if an oil spill were to occur; and

9 WHEREAS, The State's flora, fauna, and diverse ecosystems would be endangered,
10 the State's blue crab, rockfish, and oyster populations would be harmed, and the State's
11 forest buffers, oyster reefs, and critical wetlands would suffer irreparable damage if an oil
12 spill were to occur; and

13 WHEREAS, In April 2010, the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig
14 released approximately 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in losses
15 of between \$51.7 and \$952.9 million to the oil industry, between \$21.6 and \$309.8 million
16 in income to Gulf states, and between 740 and 9,315 jobs in Gulf states; and

17 WHEREAS, The probability and severity of an oil spill, including potential damages
18 to the State, will increase exponentially if the federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean are
19 opened to offshore drilling as proposed in the draft National Outer Continental Shelf Oil
20 and Gas Leasing Program for 2019–2024; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
22 Assembly of Maryland strongly and unequivocally opposes the draft proposed Outer
23 Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019–2024 and the implementation of
24 any offshore oil or gas leasing, exploration, development, or production in the Atlantic
25 Ocean; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Secretary of the
27 Interior of the United States to remove Maryland from the proposed leasing program; and
28 be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
30 Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee shall monitor and
31 make recommendations regarding how to protect Maryland if the Secretary of the Interior
32 of the United States does not remove Maryland from the proposed leasing program; and be
33 it further

34 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
35 Legislative Services to:

36 (1) the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, the

1 White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500; and the Honorable Ryan
2 Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, United States Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street,
3 N.W., Washington, D.C. 20515; and

4 (2) the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
5 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable
6 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Maryland Congressional
7 Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office
8 Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch
9 Ruppertsberger III, John P. Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, John
10 Delaney, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie Raskin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
11 20515.