

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Senator Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Partnership With Taiwan – Reaffirmation**

3 FOR the purpose of reaffirming the State of Maryland’s commitment to and partnership
4 with Taiwan; supporting certain efforts of Taiwan; and generally relating to Taiwan.

5 WHEREAS, The Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States have enjoyed an
6 enduring partnership and share the common values of freedom, democracy, and human
7 rights; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2022, Taiwan was ranked as one of the freest countries in Asia by
9 Freedom House and was ranked 6th among 177 world economies in terms of economic
10 freedom by the Heritage Foundation, showcasing Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in East
11 Asia; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States and Taiwan have forged ever stronger economic
13 relations over the last four decades, with Taiwan now the 10th largest trading partner of
14 the United States, and the State of Maryland supports Taiwan’s efforts to secure the
15 signing of a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) and an avoidance of double taxation
16 agreement (ADTA) with the United States to boost greater Maryland exports to Taiwan
17 and bring more Taiwanese investment to Maryland; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2021, the trade volume between Maryland and Taiwan amounted to
19 nearly \$451 million and Taiwan is our 10th largest source of import and 6th largest export
20 market in Asia, demonstrating that Taiwan is an important trading partner of Maryland;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Maryland welcomes more Taiwanese companies investing in the State;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, In August 2022, the University of Maryland and the National Taiwan
25 Normal University jointly signed an agreement to establish a Taiwan Huayu BEST
26 Program partnership between the two prestigious universities and endeavor to expand



educational and language exchanges and resources for both sides; and

WHEREAS, In July 2019, the city of Rockville and the city of Yilan signed a sister city agreement to deepen friendship and mutual exchanges, and the annual Bubble Tea Festival, which attracted more than 7,000 attendees in 2022, has become a highlight event in the city of Rockville; and

WHEREAS, Taiwanese Marylanders have made enormous contributions to the cultural diversity of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has proven to be a very valuable contributor in a broad range of global issues, and it is necessary for Taiwan to be granted access to meaningfully participate in international organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly reaffirms its commitment to strengthen the partnership with Taiwan, supports Taiwan's efforts to secure the signing of a BTA and an ADTA with the United States, commends Taiwan's vibrant and full-fledged democracy, and continues to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in and contribution to international organizations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Honorable Hsiao Bi-khim, representative of Taiwan to the United States.