

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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By: **Senators McCray, Augustine, Beidle, Eckardt, Elfreth, Ellis, Feldman, Guzzone, Hayes, King, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lam, Lee, Peters, Pinsky, Reilly, Rosapepe, Smith, Sydnor, Waldstreicher, Washington, West, Young, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **2026 FIFA World Cup – Protection of Human Rights**

3 FOR the purpose of supporting the fundamental requirements for United 2026 as laid out
4 in FIFA’s “Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy”; and encouraging certain
5 persons to provide certain atmospheres, experiences, and policies for certain
6 individuals at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

7 WHEREAS, The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Men’s
8 World Cup Tournament is the largest sporting event in the world by every measurable
9 factor; and

10 WHEREAS, The 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosted by the United States, Canada, and
11 Mexico (United 2026) will be held in 16 cities with up to 12 of the bidding U.S. cities
12 expected to be awarded tournament games; and

13 WHEREAS, Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. have been selected among the
14 final 16 bidding cities, with M&T Bank Stadium and FedEx Field proposed as game sites
15 and the fields at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus and Towson University
16 as team practice fields; and

17 WHEREAS, FIFA estimates there will be between 300 and 500 million dollars of
18 economic activity in each host city, affecting multiple sectors of the economy, including
19 hospitality, transportation, entertainment and broadcasting, event staging, security
20 services, and construction, impacting State, county, and municipal employees; and

21 WHEREAS, Baltimore–Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport is
22 strategically located for the arrival and departure of thousands of international fans; and

23 WHEREAS, FIFA and the host countries are committed to creating a new model and



1 legacy for global sporting events, one that centers on human rights and labor rights within
2 the framework for the games; and

3 WHEREAS, FIFA adopted a “Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy”, which
4 in part states that FIFA plans to ensure a commitment to the core standards of the
5 International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
6 in its processes for conducting the 2026 FIFA games; and

7 WHEREAS, The human rights requirements for the 2026 FIFA World Cup are the
8 most extensive ever contemplated for a mega sporting event to protect human rights and
9 improve quality of life in key areas such as labor, procurement and supply chain, freedom
10 of expression, women, children, LGBTQI+ community, indigenous peoples, people with
11 disabilities, and people of diverse ethnicities, races, and religions; and

12 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland has passed laws directly in line with
13 the requirements for bid cities for the 2026 FIFA games, including broad antidiscrimination
14 and human rights protections, living wage and minimum wage requirements, prevailing
15 wage requirements, and human trafficking protections and awareness, and has defeated
16 right-to-work legislation; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
18 Assembly supports the fundamental requirements for United 2026 as laid out in FIFA’s
19 “Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy”; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly encourages all host stadiums, cities, ports
21 of entry, and fan zones to provide the following for fans, spectators, players, officials, and
22 volunteers at the 2026 FIFA World Cup:

23 (1) a fun, safe, inclusive, respectful, and tolerant atmosphere for everyone
24 regardless of gender or gender identity;

25 (2) an accessible, inclusive, welcoming experience for people with physical,
26 mental, and sensory disabilities or with limited mobility;

27 (3) policies to ensure that free speech and assembly, directly or indirectly
28 related to preparing and hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup, are guaranteed within the
29 framework set by national and international law;

30 (4) an atmosphere that celebrates diversity and welcomes international
31 fans and players, providing fundamental government protections and due process to every
32 person;

33 (5) policies to ensure that the ILO core standards – freedom of association,
34 nondiscrimination, no forced labor, and no child laborers – are respected in relation to those
35 working on any activity related to the delivery of the competition;

36 (6) policies to ensure that all employers, public and private, providing

1 goods or services related to the delivery of the competition implement best practices on
2 labor issues, adhere to labor laws, pay a living wage, and allow workers of any status to
3 raise issues related to their employment; and

4 (7) policies to ensure that there is no human trafficking in connection with
5 the event and raise awareness of trafficking prevention; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly commits to the principles of FIFA's
7 "Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy" for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and seizes
8 this unique opportunity to support a blueprint for fundamental human and labor rights,
9 transparency, inclusiveness, and sustainability for future development; and be it further

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

12 (1) the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin
13 and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and
14 Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes,
15 Anthony G. Brown, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, David J. Trone, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie
16 Raskin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and

17 (2) the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
18 Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
19 Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.