



SPONSOR: Sen. Marshall

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
148th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

CREATING A BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF
DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON

1 WHEREAS, the city of Wilmington's strategic location on the East Coast has historically made it a focal point for
2 commerce and industry in this state; and

3 WHEREAS, downtown Wilmington is currently the capital of Delaware's financial services, corporations and law
4 firms that are primary engines of the state's economy; and

5 WHEREAS, corporate restructurings and crime have taken a toll on the strength and vitality of downtown
6 Wilmington; and

7 WHEREAS, numerous small programs have been undertaken to revitalize downtown Wilmington; and

8 WHEREAS, in spite of those efforts there are still numerous unoccupied and under-occupied buildings and
9 businesses in downtown Wilmington, while at the same time civic, community and governmental leaders have turned
10 visions into vibrant downtowns in cities as diverse as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Cleveland, Ohio and
11 Detroit and Grand Rapids, Michigan; and

12 WHEREAS, on March 4, 2016 Senator Robert I. Marshall presented a letter to the Office of the Governor urging
13 the creation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force charged with undertaking a study recommending a path to revitalizing downtown
14 Wilmington; and,

15 WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance that coordinated and comprehensive approach be devised to address the
16 best path forward to revitalize downtown Wilmington for the good of the City, State and future generations.

17 NOW THEREFORE:

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 148th General Assembly that we urge Governor Jack A. Markell to
19 appoint a Blue Ribbon Task Force to make recommendations, including State actions, that can be undertaken to strengthen
20 and grow downtown Wilmington.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we respectfully request that this task force be appointed no later than
22 September 30, 2016 and that said task force be charged with the responsibility of reporting its findings to the Office of the
23 Governor, General Assembly, the City of Wilmington, and New Castle County by September 15, 2017.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said task force should comprise a cross-section of community leaders, experts
25 in the fields of urban planning and development, leaders of business, industry, education, developers, business owners,
26 elected officials, concerned citizens, and residents of downtown Wilmington who have a vested interest in seeing
27 downtown Wilmington become a thriving community.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate respectfully requests that the Governor provide for one
29 member of the task force to be appointed by the Mayor of Wilmington, that one member of the task force be appointed by
30 the President of Wilmington City Council, that one member of the task force be appointed by the New Castle County
31 Executive, and that one member of the task force be appointed by the President of New Castle County Council.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon final passage, suitable copies of this resolution be presented to Governor
33 Jack A. Markell, Mayor Dennis Williams, and New Castle County Executive Thomas Gordon.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Resolution urges the Governor to appoint a Blue Ribbon Task Force on or before September 30, 2016 to study and make recommendations for state actions and investments to grow and strengthen downtown Wilmington.

Author: Senator Marshall