

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2004 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-60-2004
Proposed by Council Member Peters
Introduced by Council Members Peters, Harrington, Dernoga, Knotts, Dean, Exum & Bland
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction September 28, 2004

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Federal Funding for National Guard ChalleNGe Program

3 For the purpose of expressing the County Council's support of proposed legislation to increase
4 the maximum Federal share of the costs of State programs under the National Guard ChalleNGe
5 Program.

6 WHEREAS, the National Guard ChalleNGe Program was created as a civilian opportunity
7 program to be conducted by the Secretary of Defense, as a preventive rather than remedial youth-
8 at-risk program, targets participants who are unemployed, drug-free and law-free high-school
9 dropouts, 16 to 18 years of age; and

10 WHEREAS, the National Guard ChalleNGe Program was authorized by Congress in the
11 1993 Defense Authorization Bill as a pilot program, with the goal to determine whether life
12 skills, education levels, and employment potential of youths who drop out of secondary school
13 could be significantly improved through quasi-military assisted training; and

14 WHEREAS, at this time there are twenty-nine ChalleNGe programs in twenty-four states
15 and Puerto Rico; and

16 WHEREAS, in Maryland the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, one of the original ten states
17 to begin a ChalleNGe program in 1993 and was first known as the Maryland Military Youth
18 Corps ChalleNGe Program, is administered under the auspices of the Maryland National Guard;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, approximately 120 Prince George's County at-risk and drop out youths each
21 year apply for the Freestate ChalleNGe program; and

22 WHEREAS, to date over 1,668 Maryland students met the challenge and graduated from

1 the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy located in Aberdeen Proving Grounds; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1998 Congress permanently authorized the program at 60% Federal
3 funding, 40% State funding; and

4 WHEREAS, H.R. 4217 was introduced by Representative Joe Wilson on April 22, 2004
5 and has sixty co-sponsors, including Maryland Representatives Roscoe G. Bartlett (MD-6th
6 District), Dutch C.A. Ruppersberger (MD-2nd District), Benjamin L. Cardin (MD-3rd District)
7 and Elijah E. Cummings (MD-7th District); and

8 WHEREAS, H.R. 4217 seeks to rename the program as the National Guard Youth
9 ChalleNGe Program and to increase the maximum Federal matching fund share to 65 percent in
10 Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, 70 percent in FY 2006 and 75 percent in FY 2007; and

11 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council continues to recognize the need to
12 provide alternative educational opportunities and experiences at at-risk students and drop out
13 youths in the County and Maryland.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
15 County, Maryland, that the County Council hereby supports H.R. 4217 to increase the maximum
16 Federal share of the costs of State programs under the National Guard ChalleNGe Program.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maryland Delegation to the United States Congress
18 is encouraged to join and support the efforts to secure passage of H.R. 4217.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council is directed to send a copy of
20 this Resolution to each member of the Maryland Delegation to the United States Congress, the
21 Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services and the Speaker of the House.

Adopted this 1st day of November, 2004.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Tony Knotts
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council