

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

No. 1

(Senate Joint Resolution 1)

Joint Resolution requesting the Department of Legislative Reference to conduct an Orientation Conference for newly elected members of the General Assembly.

The members of the General Assembly of Maryland have learned with interest of the Orientation Conferences now conducted in more than half of the States of the Union for the benefit of newly elected members of their State Legislatures.

The problem in Maryland is that at the regular elections held every four years approximately two-thirds of the members elected to the General Assembly are without previous legislative experience. As new members, they are to take their places in a body which is entirely different from any other groups or organizations.

The conferences conducted in other States may last anywhere from two hours to two days. Those States having the very short conferences generally hold them at the time their new Legislatures are convened. The States having longer conferences frequently hold them in advance of the session in order that nothing will interfere with the conference.

The subjects which can be covered at a conference will vary directly with the amount of time set apart for it. A discussion of legislative procedures and of legislative rules is probably the most important of all the items to be covered. Some discussion also might well be given to the availability of the legislative and other services for members of the Legislature, including the drafting of bills, the securing of financial information and the securing of material from the several State departments. Still other possibilities for the conference would be a consideration of

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.