

No. 12

(Senate Joint Resolution 13)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Commission on Legislative Structure and Schedule

FOR the purpose of requesting the President and the Speaker to appoint a commission to study alternatives to and improvements in the structure and schedule of the General Assembly of Maryland.

During the past several years, the operation and functioning of the General Assembly has developed to the point that the Members are required to spend considerably more time on a year-round basis on their legislative duties of serving on committees, reviewing legislation, and servicing constituent needs. It has also become apparent that time constraints of a 90 consecutive day annual session have placed severe restrictions on what the General Assembly can manage and cope with. With the limits on what can be expected of legislators under the pressures of the Session and the demands of a nine-month interim, particularly under the current salary structure, a very timely need exists to consider seriously and in depth what shape the General Assembly should take after the 1978 election. This study should address itself to the questions of whether an alternative to the 90-day session is necessary, whether split sessions would be helpful, what the size, structure, and role of legislative staff should be, whether more staffing could eliminate the need for a full-time legislature, what is an appropriate salary for members, and should compensation reflect participation in between-sessions activities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the President and Speaker appoint a Commission on Legislative Process (1) to undertake an in-depth analysis of the structure and schedule of the General Assembly and the problems faced by legislators with the existing workload of the Legislature during the sessions and the interim periods; and (2) to develop practical alternatives to the present structure if it decides that changes from the existing structure are necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President appoint six Senators to the Commission, at least one of whom shall be a member of the minority party and not more than three of whom shall be members of the Legislative Policy Committee. The