

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

Martha Roach, Acting Insurance Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Regulation, 501 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Signed May 27, 1988.

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No. 2

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 8)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Maryland Parole Commission - Powers

FOR the purpose of requesting the Legislative Policy Committee to establish a committee to study the efficiency and effectiveness of, and the advisability of maintaining the feasibility--of--abolishing--the--power--of--the Maryland Parole Commission to grant--parole--release--to--persons--sentenced under--the--laws--of--the--State--to--penal--and--correctional institutions; including local jails and detention centers; providing for the composition and chairman of the committee; requiring a certain report by a certain date; and providing for the staffing of the committee.

WHEREAS, Parole release of inmates, having begun as a criminal reform measure, is currently a major component of the criminal justice system and during the past decade has been used primarily to alleviate prison overcrowding; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of supervised parole has been questioned in light of the fact that during 1984 a statewide total of 481 parole agents supervised 2,835 parolees and 46,845 probationers; and

WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Justice Statistics has found that 96 percent of all inmates in State prisons have been previously incarcerated for serious or violent crimes, and that 40 percent of the inmates in State prisons during 1984 committed their crimes while on parole or probation; and

WHEREAS, The average Maryland prisoner currently serves 46 percent of his sentence; and

WHEREAS, In 1984 the United States Congress abolished parole for federal prisoners, and over the past 10 years 9 states have abolished the authority of their parole boards to release prisoners prematurely; and