

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, A recent management audit of the Maryland Parole Commission by the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning found poor morale, high staff turnover, and serious delays in scheduling timely inmate parole hearings; and

WHEREAS, The audit found that the backlog of parole cases was so severe that many inmates with short sentences were completing their full sentences before the Commission could hold hearings on their cases; and

WHEREAS, The power of the Maryland Parole Commission to overrule both the General Assembly and the courts in determining when inmates should be released erodes the faith of the public in the criminal justice system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Legislative Policy Committee is requested 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of:

(1) 3 members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and 3 members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services or the Secretary's designee;

(3) 1 classification officer of the Division of Correction, appointed by the Governor;

(3) (4) The Director of the Division of Parole and Probation or the Director's designee; and

(4) (5) The Chairperson of the Maryland Parole Commission or the Chairperson's designee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Policy Committee designate the chairman of the committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 1988; and be it further

RESOLVED, That staff for the committee be provided by the Department of Legislative Reference; and be it further