

WHEREAS, other states at the present time are engaged in preparing the necessary data and are now entering into agreements with the Federal government for construction of specific highway projects as soon as authorization for construction is given; and

WHEREAS, due to the present inadequate salary scale of the staff of the State Roads Commission many of its personnel have left to accept more lucrative employment, and the resultant vacancies, which cannot be filled at present salary rates, make it impossible for the remaining personnel to prepare and supervise an annual construction program of more than \$2,500,000, inasmuch as every construction program requires the completion of engineering studies, surveys, plans, specifications, right-of-way surveys and data before Federal participation can be secured and contemplated projects can be undertaken; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate personnel will undoubtedly result in preference being given to planning and construction of main highways, with resultant failure to provide for planning and construction of much needed farm to market roads throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, failure by the State of Maryland to take immediate measures to correct this situation and prepare at once to take part in this program of highway construction will inevitably cause thousands of returning war veterans and workers to be unemployed at a time when employment will be most urgently required and may compel the expenditure of large sums for "made-work" or other forms of charity, in addition to the loss of presently available grants for necessary construction, and will cause the further deterioration of our heavily burdened highway system; and

WHEREAS, the remedy hereinafter proposed for the prevention of this condition can be accomplished without any increase whatsoever in the tax rate of the State of Maryland inasmuch as all expenditures involved will be met from special funds dedicated to highway purposes, which will not affect the general tax rate, and furthermore a substantial part of necessary engineering costs will be shared by the Federal Government under the terms of the Federal Aid Highway Act; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the State Employees' Standard Salary Board be and hereby is directed to make immediately a survey of the existing salaries*