

in Maryland and of the State's future policy as to its conduct and operation; and be it further

*Resolved*, That on this committee the Legislative Council be requested to place members of the General Assembly of Maryland and acknowledged experts on the subject so that once and for all a solution can be found for these persistent problems; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this committee be requested to meet and organize promptly and to report to the Legislative Council not later than October 1, 1958, in order that this body may give consideration to the report and then submit recommendations to the General Assembly of 1959.

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No. 15

(Senate Joint Resolution 18)

Senate Joint Resolution to Reaffirm the Tradition of Freedom AND THE RESPONSIBILITY of the Press in Maryland and the Nation.

At the Annual Convention of the Maryland Press Association, on February 14, 1958, that body declared anew the importance of freedom of the press as follows: "It is the belief of the Maryland Press Association that the time is especially appropriate for a reaffirmation of Maryland's Declaration of Rights which, like the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, protects freedom of the press and safeguards all media of information from any form of pressure from any form of government;

"And whereas, passage by the General Assembly of a joint resolution reaffirming these ideals would be a positive expression of our people's dedication to freedom and lend true meaning to the honored name, 'Free State of Maryland';

"And whereas, passage of such a resolution would be a strong deterrent against future attempts to inhibit press freedom, economic or otherwise, from whatever source." The members of the General Assembly of Maryland are proud to add their own reaffirmation to this great and cardinal principle of free government.

The right to print without any previous license, with an immunity from prior restraint and a responsibility only after the fact, has been a jealously guarded prerogative of the free press of America. It was won after centuries of effort by the British and Colonial American press, and now for more than two centuries has been a vital landmark in the United States in the age-old struggle for freedom and the dignity of man.

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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.