

# JOINT RESOLUTIONS

No. 1

(Senate Joint Resolution 2)

Joint Resolution requesting the Governor to appoint a special commission to study the problem of pre-school training for handicapped children.

The members of the General Assembly of Maryland have learned with interest and sympathy of the special problems in the education of young children with handicaps.

For years the State of Maryland has contributed to the cost of special training and facilities for handicapped children of normal school age, beginning with age six. While this program has been a most valuable one to the youngsters concerned, it has not met the needs that some of them have for special education during earlier years, from the time they are but two or three years of age.

Some counties in the State have developed broad programs of special education for handicapped children. Specially equipped school buses take them to central locations from all parts of the county, where they are given expert care, under the advice of a physician and under the supervision of occupational and physical therapists, psychologists, and others trained in the techniques of special education.

In addition to gauging the State-wide need for special education for pre-school children who are handicapped, the State must consider whether it wishes to add to its present educational responsibilities, which assume the burden of public education only from the age of six. Also, there is a special committee of experts in the field of education which has been doing intensive work on the subject of training methods and education of the handicapped. The results of this study should be secured, and the entire subject is one which needs the study and consideration of a special commission appointed for this purpose alone.

Now therefore be it,

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Governor of Maryland be requested to appoint a special commission of persons who are interested in the educational problems of handicapped children of pre-school age, to consider the needs for extending the State's present educational responsibilities in order to give financial assistance where needed for this type of education; and that this commission be requested to report the results of its study, together with any pertinent recommendations, to the members of the General Assembly and of the Legislative Council, not later than October 1, 1955.

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.