

payment of any costs or charges in settling the questions involved in the aforesaid resolutions, or to authorise the Governor to employ counsel in the discussion of the matter before said court.

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No. 4.

Resolution authorising the Governor to institute proceedings to obtain the opinion of the Judges of the Court of Appeals in relation to an appropriation made by the Act of seventeen hundred and eighty-four, chapter thirty-seven, to St. John's College.

Assented to  
March 10, 1858.

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,*  
That His Excellency, the Governor, be and he is hereby authorised and required to cause such proceedings to be instituted as may be necessary to obtain the opinion of the Judges of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, whether the annual appropriation made by the nineteenth section of the act of seventeen hundred and eighty-four, chapter thirty-seven, of the sum of seventeen hundred and fifty pounds current money to be applied by the Visitors and Governor of St. John's College, to the payment of salaries, &c., constitutes a contract on the part of the State, under all the circumstances of the case, which could not be legally repealed by the act of eighteen hundred and five, chapter eighty-five, by the Legislature of this State; whether this latter act is not in violation of the tenth section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, which declares "that no State shall pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts;" and whether the former act, with the circumstances of the case constituted such a contract as would, if entered into between individual citizens be legally binding upon them; and that the result of such proceedings be reported to the Legislature at next session; *Provided,*