

It is vital for the continued welfare of the State of Maryland that our forest resources be studied and evaluated and that the people of this State take stock of the proper conservation of those resources and in the possibilities for building them for the future; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor of Maryland be requested to appoint a commission of five able and outstanding persons to conduct a study of Maryland's forest resources and to make recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly as to the best procedure whereby this State may realize its great potentials in the production of forest products; and be it further

Resolved, That this commission, when appointed, be requested promptly to meet and organize and to submit its report and recommendations to the Governor and to the members of the General Assembly not later than October 1, 1961.

Approved May 3, 1961.

No. 45

(House Joint Resolution 5)

House Joint Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to amend the old age assistance laws in order to permit individuals receiving old age assistance to earn extra compensation without being penalized.

The General Assembly of Maryland believes that it would be a wise enactment of legislation if the Congress of the United States would provide that individuals receiving old age assistance payments might earn at least thirty dollars (\$30.00) per month without that sum being considered a resource in determining the amount of the old age assistance grant.

It is believed that this would encourage a measure of self-support on the part of the recipients of old age assistance.

The Federal law now requires that all regular earnings of an old age assistance recipient must be reported by him and deducted from his old age assistance grant.

Yet, old age assistance grants are very small and some supplementation by earnings would be extremely helpful.

Many old age assistance recipients may not be able to hold down permanent employment, but some may be able to earn a little by odd jobs. The recommended change in the law would encourage them to do so.

There is a federal precedent for such a change in the law because the public assistance law for the blind now permits all earnings up to eighty-five dollars (\$85.) a month to be disregarded in determining need for such assistance.