

WHEREAS, There is no present assurance in the State of Maryland of the availability of a full range of resources on a statewide basis to which institutions such as schools, churches, hospitals, clinics and courts, as well as doctors, lawyers, social workers, public health nurses and parents can refer an illegitimately pregnant woman or one who has already been delivered of an illegitimate child for an integrated counseling service aware of, and having available to it, specialized information and resource to help the individuals and families involved toward the end of rehabilitation and protection of the illegitimate child; and

WHEREAS, Such services as do exist are often fragmented and unknown to the persons who need them, and

WHEREAS, Centralization of responsibility is needed to insure equal attention to the basic social, legal, medical, religious and economic problems that arise in each case of illegitimacy, since individuals or specializations alone cannot be expected to recognize the total needs involved in cases of illegitimacy or to provide the persons involved with all of the services in which the public has millions of dollars invested; and

WHEREAS, Centralization of administration would provide the means for efficient and effective utilization of the available financial resources to meet the problems of illegitimacy, including such federal funds and grants in aid as may be or hereafter become available; and

WHEREAS, A centralized counseling service at the time of pregnancy has been demonstrated to be one of the most practical deterrents to repeated illegitimacies; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Board of Public Welfare be and it is hereby requested to provide by administrative organization within the State Department of Public Welfare an integrated statewide social work service to counsel and advise and be available to illegitimately pregnant women, putative fathers and others whose circumstances may affect the health and welfare of illegitimate children, and that it inquire into the availability of federal funds and grants in aid to assist in the maintenance of this service program; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Board of Public Welfare submit a report of the actions it has taken pursuant to this Resolution to the members of the General Assembly on or before January 1, 1964; and be it further

*Resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Board of Public Welfare.

Approved May 6, 1963.

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No. 24

(House Joint Resolution 4)

House Joint Resolution requesting the Board of Public Works to employ professional consultants to study the STRUCTURE, personnel administration polices and practices of the State Department of Public Welfare with the objective of recommending THE MOST