

*Resolved*, That this Commission when appointed be requested to meet and organize promptly and to make recommendations to the 1964 General Assembly for a revision of the present ~~unfair~~ formula covering the distribution of the gasoline tax fund.

(Not signed by the Governor).

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No. 60

(Senate Joint Resolution 39)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting the Governor to appoint a commission to study the problems of local government, outlining particular problems to be studied, prescribing the membership of the commission, and generally relating thereto.

WHEREAS, Since its adoption by the Maryland Constitution of 1885, the County Commissioner form of government has been so rarely changed, and then only under the press of emergency or some other short-run expediency, that the county governments of Maryland, in fact of the nation, have been called "a patchwork of boards"; and

WHEREAS, This patchwork of boards often results in a vacuum of leadership, responsibility and supervision, with the consequent lack of controls, coordination and efficiency which results in inadequate local self government and brings a greater centralization of power at either State or Federal levels since, if the citizens of a community cannot have the services performed adequately, or at all, by the local county government, they will look elsewhere for help—either to the State or Federal government; and

WHEREAS, Modern functions of a policy determining nature require a different organizational structure from the older type of administrative and judicial responsibility; and

WHEREAS, A new structure involves (1) a placing of power and responsibility for policy which is made on a county level in the hands of the county governing body which should be accountable to the voters for over-all county policy, functional and administrative detail, (2) a delegation by the State of more powers to the counties, and (3) a decreased diffusion of authority among a multiplicity of boards, commissions and offices; and

WHEREAS, It is clear that the facts of increasing mobility of people and of capital and of increasing interdependency of counties and areas; and

WHEREAS, As we move into the future, to insure that there are no hindrances to future development, the governmental arrangements must be such that they will promote and not impede progress; and

WHEREAS, It has been proposed that the Charter form of government be instituted in all Maryland counties and though this particular proposal may not be feasible or politically possible, there is such a