

## (Senate Joint Resolution 6)

Senate Joint Resolution urging the State Department of Public Welfare and other State and local agencies to take the necessary action to implement the recommendations of the Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Welfare Costs.

WHEREAS, By Joint Resolution 44 of the 1965 General Assembly (H.J.R. 68), the Legislative Council was urged to appoint a committee to study and resolve the constant and persistent increases in the cost of public welfare in the State; and

WHEREAS, The Resolution requested the Special Committee to provide the 1966 General Assembly with a full, frank, complete, and realistic report upon present welfare conditions in Maryland, the reasons for its increased use, and the means by which the entire public welfare trend may be revised and reduced; and

WHEREAS, In compliance with this directive, the Special Committee has made its report to the Legislative Council and has submitted the following recommendations:

1. The State Department of Public Welfare should make a more complete initial verification of two items on the application submitted by a person applying for welfare assistance:

(a) financial resources of the applicant; and

(b) his residence qualifications for assistance. The applicant should be required to complete, sign and have notarized his application for assistance.

2. The State Department should investigate more aggressively than at present all cases of suspected fraud in obtaining welfare assistance and document cases before referring them to State's Attorneys for prosecution.

3. The various State's Attorneys of the State are urged to augment their staffs of attorneys to the degree necessary to prosecute fully all cases of welfare fraud by requesting the local government to supply funds for this purpose. The State's Attorneys are further urged to follow up aggressively and enforce payments under court orders for the support of children.

4. The State Department is urged to exercise continuing supervision over recipients of welfare assistance after qualification and payment of assistance. If the Department does not have enough case workers properly to supervise recipients for assistance, it can and should require recipients to requalify for assistance at least every three months.

5. The State Department and the State Health Department are urged to disseminate family planning information through clinics to welfare recipients and to take positive action in exercising continuing supervision over welfare recipients who indicate a desire to receive such information.

6. The State Department is requested to estimate the requirements of day care centers for children and to inform the General Assembly