

WHEREAS, Recently during hearings by the Senate Finance Committee involving welfare programs and expenditures in the State, members of the Committee requested from the State Welfare Department Director an explanation of what use was made by welfare recipients and welfare money, in response to newspaper accounts appearing rather frequently reporting the cashing of welfare checks at taverns and bars and suggesting the spending of welfare money for non-essential personal uses; and

WHEREAS, The advice of the Welfare Director and the regional office of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare was that such an inquiry as that proposed into what use welfare recipients made of their assistance would violate federal welfare regulations to the extent that the State would suffer a loss of all federal welfare funds granted to the State, and

WHEREAS, The reply of the regional office was as follows: "The provision that assistance shall be in the form of money payments is one of several provisions in the Social Security Act designed to carry out the basic principle that assistance shall be administered in such a way that will preserve the individual's freedom to manage his affairs, to decide what use of his assistance check will best serve his interests, and to make purchases through normal channels of exchange—enjoying the same rights and discharging the same responsibilities as do friends and other members of the community," and

WHEREAS, Members of the Senate, because of their obligation to the public electing them feel that they have the right to know what use is, in fact, made of welfare grants by recipients, and propose a meeting with the Maryland Senators and Congressmen for the purpose of preparing necessary amendments to federal law; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates of Maryland are urged to appoint a joint legislative committee charged with the duty of meeting with the Maryland Senators and Congressmen to consider changes in federal welfare requirements to allow the States to make reasonable inquiry into the use made by welfare recipients of the monies paid to them for welfare assistance, and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution are sent to Senators Brewster and Tydings, Congressmen Fallon, Friedel, Garmatz, Long, Machen, Mathias, Morton and Sickles, to the President of the Senate of Maryland, the Speaker of the House of Delegates of Maryland, and the Director of the State Department of Public Welfare.

Approved May 6, 1966.

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No. 37

(Senate Joint Resolution 48)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting the Governor to appoint a study commission to investigate the problems of water pollution.