

The members of the General Assembly of Maryland are requesting the assistance and cooperation of all officials and employees of the several agencies and departments of State government and also of all local governments in Maryland for an orderly and timely presentation of proposals for legislation.

At every session of the General Assembly of Maryland, the members of this body are criticized in the public press and by the citizens of the State for introducing their bills and making their proposals for legislation too late in the session for adequate consideration. The members of this body also are criticized for a companion situation concerning the heavy program of action on bills during the final days of the General Assembly, much of which is a direct result of the late introduction of bills.

While uninformed editorial writers and members of the general public who are not familiar with procedures in the State House in Annapolis, blame legislators for these perennial conditions, those who have some familiarity with the General Assembly of Maryland know that in many many instances, the fault lies elsewhere. To be specific, the late introduction of bills and the consequent log jam at the end are in considerable part the fault of the officials and employees of public and semi-public agencies throughout the State, whether on a state or local level.

All this is completely unnecessary. The full time officials and employees of the public and semi-public governmental agencies know or should know long in advance of a session of the General Assembly what their legislative needs may be. These officials and employees, with a reasonable degree of diligence, could and should make known to members of the General Assembly at an early time, their needs and requests for legislative action.

If the officials and employees of the agencies and departments of the State government and of the several local governments brought their proposals to members of the legislature prior to, or at least in the very early weeks of a legislative session, the entire tempo of the procedures in this General Assembly could be radically altered and improved. Bills could be prepared and introduced early, the committees could schedule their hearings and discussions on an orderly and leisurely basis, and the public would have an opportunity to learn about and consider proposals for legislative action. A vast improvement thus could be made in the procedures and in the effectiveness of this General Assembly.

Accordingly, the members of the General Assembly of Maryland are requesting the cooperation and assistance of all state and local officials and employees in the State to the end that their requests and proposals for legislation be sent to a member or members of the General Assembly by as early a date as possible, now therefore be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all officials and employees of the several departments and agencies of the state government and of the units of local government in this state, are respectively urged and requested to formulate their legislative proposals during the weeks and months prior to the convening of the