

General Assembly and to request the introduction of proposed legislation before the legislature convenes, thus contributing to an orderly and effective procedure in this General Assembly, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State of Maryland is requested to send copies of this resolution under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, to the Governor of this State, to the Maryland Municipal League and to the County Commissioners Association, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Governor of Maryland and also the executive heads of the Maryland Municipal League and of the County Commissioners Association are requested to circulate the contents of this resolution among all their agencies and members in order that all persons and agencies having a public interest on behalf of a governmental unit in legislation to be considered by this General Assembly of Maryland, cooperate with the members of the Legislature in their efforts to improve the workings and the procedures of the legislative process in Maryland.

Approved May 6, 1966.

---

No. 40

(House Joint Resolution 2)

House Joint Resolution requesting the Legislative Council during 1966 to add to its agenda for study the proposal of the Attorney General of Maryland to establish an Office of Consumer Protection for Maryland.

The General Assembly is requesting the Legislative Council to study during 1966, possibilities for setting up an Office of Consumer Protection in the State government.

Such a study has been requested by the Attorney General of Maryland. He points out that at least ten states afford assistance to and protection for the consumer through an agency of State government. In some states there is an office of Consumer's Counsel to the Governor or some such designation. In others, the Attorney General is empowered to conduct certain investigations designed to protect the interests of the buying public.

Maryland at this time has no one State agency charged with consumer protection in general. The Attorney General's office does not have subpoena and other powers necessary properly to perform this function. Actually, that office has few powers of law enforcement, these matters being left to the respective State's Attorneys.

There are certain abuses to which the public is exposed in services or in marketing which have a Statewide pattern, or at least the problem is Statewide in scope, and it becomes quite apparent that there should be some central State agency which can act quickly and effectively to combat the situation.