

No. 68\*

(Senate Joint Resolution 49)

Senate Joint Resolution urging the Governor to include funds in the State capital budget for the planning of a 200-bed rehabilitation facility for habitual drunken offenders..

WHEREAS, Chronic alcoholism is a nationally recognized problem of major proportions, and whereas, it is estimated in Maryland alone there are 80,000 alcoholics which cost the State approximately \$6 million dollars per year on the welfare budget, and whereas the Maryland Code recognizes alcoholism as an illness and a public health problem subject to treatment and recovery, and the sufferer of alcohol is one worthy of treatment and rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, Information on the number of habitual drunken offenders indicates there is a strong need for a public investment in an effort to rehabilitate habitual drunken offenders especially when consideration is taken of the great costs of managing them by arrests, trials and imprisonment, and by welfare support, and

WHEREAS, The need for such a rehabilitation facility has been noted by every committee and commission assigned to study the problem of drunken offenders in the past 20 years; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That we strongly support the request of the Department of Mental Hygiene for planning funds for a treatment center as an alternative to the traditional correctional resources for habitual drunken offenders, and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Assembly urges the Executive to include necessary funds in the 1966 Supplemental Budget in order to implement the forward looking policy of the State as herein expressed, and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this Resolution are sent to the Governor of Maryland, the State Budget Director and the State Planning Department.*

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\* This resolution was not signed by the Governor.