

No. 35

(House Joint Resolution 25)

House Joint Resolution requesting the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County to appoint a Commission to study the annual appropriations to the several volunteer fire companies in Allegany County.

WHEREAS, There has been continued discussion and uncertainty in Allegany County on the general subject of county appropriations to volunteer fire companies in the County.

The only paid fire department in Allegany County is supported by the City of Cumberland. Other fire departments are operated on a volunteer basis in a number of communities throughout the county.

For many years the county has made appropriations to the several volunteer fire companies in order to assist in their support. These payments have raised some question as to the proper amounts paid to the various companies and as to whether the City of Cumberland should not also be included since the residents and taxpayers in that City are county taxpayers and this way are supporting not only their own paid fire department but also assisting in the support of the several volunteer fire companies elsewhere in the county.

The General Assembly of Maryland suggests that the solution to these pressing questions be sought by a special commission to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and to report to that board and also to the Allegany County Delegation in the General Assembly of Maryland; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Board of County Commissioners is requested to appoint a special commission to study the subject of cost appropriations to the several volunteer fire companies in that county and to include in the study some determination about the special circumstances applying to the City of Cumberland and its paid fire department; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly suggests that membership on the special commission include a representative of the Allegany-Garrett County Volunteer Firemen's Association residing in Allegany County, a representative of the special fire tax areas in the county, an employee of Allegany County, the Police and Fire Commissioner of the City of Cumberland, and a representative of the public from the county at large; and be it further

Resolved, That this commission, when appointed, is requested to meet and organize promptly to study the problems outlined in this resolution and prior to January 1, 1969 to report to the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County and the members of the Allegany County Delegation in the General Assembly of Maryland.

Approved May 7, 1968.