

*Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be sent, under the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, to the President and Vice President of the United States and members of the Maryland Delegation to the Congress of the United States.

Approved April 15, 1970.

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No. 14

(House Joint Resolution 72)

House Joint Resolution requesting the Governor of Maryland to appoint a Commission to explore alternatives for the utilization of resources now engaged in the growing of tobacco so as to assure residents of Southern Maryland continued economic stability.

WHEREAS, more than three hundred years after the founding of the Free State, tobacco is still the mainstay of agriculture, a significant element of commerce and the principal source of income of thousands of residents in Southern Maryland; and

WHEREAS, ~~campaigns by the nation's health authorities advertising the dangers of cigarette smoking are reducing the consumption of tobacco, and rising costs are making economic production increasingly more difficult~~ AS A RESULT OF RECENT REPORTS ISSUED BY HEALTH AUTHORITIES, THE CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS DECREASING, AND THE RISING COSTS OF RAISING TOBACCO ARE MAKING ECONOMIC PRODUCTION INCREASINGLY MORE DIFFICULT; and

WHEREAS, the traditional source of livelihood for many families is endangered, lands now in tobacco production are in prospect of abandonment, and the resulting effects promise great loss to the economy of the State of Maryland; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly of Maryland declare this a matter of grave concern and, recognizing the economic distress that could result therefrom, request the Governor of Maryland to appoint a commission to explore alternatives for the utilization of resources now engaged in the growing of tobacco so as to assure residents of Southern Maryland continued economic stability, and respectfully suggest that membership of such a commission include representatives of the Agricultural Commission, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, the College of Agriculture of the University of Maryland, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Department of Planning; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Maryland, THE MARYLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, the members of the Agricultural Commission, the members of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, the Dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Maryland, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Director of the Maryland Department of Planning.

Approved April 15, 1970.

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No. 15

(Senate Joint Resolution 8)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting a study of public and private ownership of school buses and for continuation of the existing system of ownership pending completion of this study.