

and Baltimore County be requested to conduct a study to determine whether the Baltimore Probation Department and the Baltimore County Probation Department should be integrated into the State Division of Parole and Probation.

*Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Department heads of the State Division of Parole and Probation, Baltimore City Probation Department, and the Baltimore County Probation Department.

Approved May 17, 1971.

---

No. 60

(House Joint Resolution 32)

House Joint Resolution requesting the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice to study the feasibility of a pilot project of early release of persons charged with misdemeanors and petty offenses, on their honor or recognizance, prior to arraignment, if verified information documents a defendant's roots in the community.

WHEREAS, The Manhattan Summons Project is the forerunner of a procedure whereby persons charged with certain misdemeanors and petty offenses are released on their honor or recognizance if an interview and investigation at the stationhouse proves them to be persons with roots in the community. Those persons who prove eligible for early release under this program are given a summons to appear at a later time in lieu of arrest and a setting of bail; and

WHEREAS, The Manhattan Summons Project has been successful over the past several years and the summons investigation has proven to be a reliable technique for identifying those defendants who will appear in court when required; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of this project would be numerous in that it would free the policeman to return to patrol instead of waiting at the station house for a hearing; it would alleviate overcrowded detention facilities; it would permit more efficient court scheduling; it would give attorneys more time to prepare their cases; it would allow defendants to avoid long detention thereby being able to keep their jobs, stay with their families, and prepare their defenses and would benefit the community in the long run in increased police protection and decreased detention and welfare costs; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice is requested to study the feasibility of a pilot project of early release of persons charged with misdemeanors and petty offenses, on their honor or recognizance, prior to arraignment, if verified information documents a defendant's roots in the community; and be it further