

WHEREAS, The policy underlying the age limit determination may vary with respect to many of these provisions; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a legislative committee be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to conduct an in-depth study into the issue of lowering the age of majority from 21 years to 18 years of age; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the committee should submit its report to the General Assembly by January 1, 1973.

Approved May 26, 1972.

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No. 42

(House Joint Resolution 9)

House Joint Resolution requesting Maryland's Congressional Delegation to introduce appropriate legislation and to urge governmental agencies to enact regulations to provide adequate safeguards in the governmental centralization of personnel files and in the ~~National Data Center~~ NATIONAL DATA BANKS, GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE, to insure the privacy and freedom of individuals and their interest in controlling both the amount and the accuracy of what others know about them.

WHEREAS, All major federal agencies presently have computerized files, and state and local governments are rapidly increasing their utilization of computers as record keepers; and

WHEREAS, Computers make the operation of filing systems less expensive and faster, and they also have the potential to be coordinated and connected in such a way that they can form an enormous single pool of information from which all users of the pool can draw; and

WHEREAS, Individuals have strong interests in restricting disclosures of certain information about them; and

WHEREAS, The greatest concern has been the danger of disclosure of personal information, which involves the government's right to collect and store personal information, as well as its right to subsequently allow access to that information; and

WHEREAS, There are two types of dangers posed by the possibility of unauthorized access to a centralized computer file system which should be distinguished: first, there is the danger that for any single piece of information stored in the files, the number of persons who will be able to gain unauthorized access to it will be increased, and, secondly, there is the danger that those who are able to gain unauthorized access to the files will be able to obtain a far greater quantum of information; and

WHEREAS, The present safeguards on collection, storage, and disclosures of information are highly fragmentary and little more than policy guidelines which may, or may not, be adhered to by the responsible agencies; now, therefore, be it