

WHEREAS, Heretofore there was no department of State government actively to expound the point of view of the farmers and agricultural community and protect the vitality of the agricultural industry from destruction; and

WHEREAS, By act of the General Assembly in the 1972 session there was created a Department of Agriculture with the responsibility, among others, to promote and preserve agricultural farm lands, activities and industries as a source of economic and environmental satisfaction and food supply for generations to come in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Other States, also faced with the need to preserve and plan the use of agricultural lands, are studying or have adopted courses of action to take, such as the creation state-wide of agricultural districts, exclusive agricultural zoning, equitable assessment treatment, deferred or rollback tax plan, purchase of development rights, and other ways and means in order to provide the incentive and protection to maintain and preserve the rural environment and agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, For the foregoing reasons it is both desirable and imperative that a study and plan be made to determine the best means of protecting Maryland's agricultural land; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture is directed to undertake a comprehensive study of ways and means to preserve agriculture land in Maryland and prepare a long range plan and any recommendations he deems appropriate in order for such preservation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Agriculture seek the assistance and cooperation of any unit of State government or the federal government in the conduct of such a study; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such a study and long range plan and recommendations be completed by October 1, 1973, and thereupon presented to the Legislative Council of Maryland for the Council to consider and take whatever action it deems advisable; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of Maryland; to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of Maryland; and to the Secretary of the Legislative Council.

Approved May 7, 1973.

No. 15

(Senate Joint Resolution 49)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting Governor Mandel to commission the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland to conduct an evaluation of the medical services provided to inmates of State penal institutions.

WHEREAS, A recent evaluation of medical conditions in the Baltimore City Jail revealed that certain improvements were essential to provide adequate medical services to city jail inmates; and