

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

No. 50

(House Joint Resolution 16)

House Joint Resolution requesting that the executive departments prepare and distribute news releases concerning changes in the rules and regulations of each department.

The Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review of the General Assembly has conducted a series of hearings since its inception, on the problem of effective notification of the public of changes in the rules and regulations of the various executive departments. A complaint heard from time to time concerned the fact that some people affected by rule changes do not know of the change, which operates to their detriment.

The Committee considered various proposals to meet this problem. After extensive testimony, the Committee has decided to encourage the executive departments to prepare and widely distribute press releases covering important rule changes. This press release approach was considered preferable to another proposal originally considered which would have required the departments to place paid advertisements in every newspaper of the State. The objection to this is that the paid advertising would be placed in the classified section of the various newspapers and attract little popular notice. This approach is also quite expensive.

Since the editors of the newspapers throughout the State are not being compelled to publish the press release on every rule change, they can select those which are most important to their reading public. Thus, the Committee believes the goal of better informing the public can be met; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the executive departments which promulgate rules and regulations which affect the public be encouraged to prepare and widely distribute press releases to the newspapers of the State of Maryland regarding these rule changes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Secretary of each major Secretariat within the executive department and to each independent agency of that department.

Approved May 21, 1973.

No. 51

(House Joint Resolution 29)

A House Joint Resolution urging the various newspapers, television and radio stations throughout Maryland to devote a daily column or portion of a daily news broadcast to news of a pleasant and inspiring nature.

WHEREAS, The citizens of our State are subjected daily, without let up, to an unending stream of news about war, bombings, killing, terrorism, criminal activity of every kind, and injustices and outrages perpetrated against innocent people the world over; and