

WHEREAS, I contacted the sponsor of Senate Bill 873 who concurred with the desirability of promulgating an Executive Order creating a Commission on Judicial Reform with broader representation than provided for in Senate Bill 873; and

WHEREAS, I vetoed Senate Bill 873 since the purpose of the bill could be put into effect by an Executive Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARVIN MANDEL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY ARTICLE II, SECTION 24, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROMULGATE THE FOLLOWING ORDER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. There is created a Commission on Judicial Reform.

2. The Commission shall be composed of nine members, two of whom shall be members of the Maryland Senate, appointed by the President; two of whom shall be members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker; two of whom shall be members of the State Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland; and three of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.

3. The members of the Commission shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from its membership. Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairman or at the call of the majority of the members thereof. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation but may receive such expenses as provided annually in the budget.

4. The Commission shall conduct a study of the Judicial Branch of Government and its operations with the purpose of expediting justice and increasing efficiency. The study shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) Proper compensation of the Judiciary, including collateral benefits, to attract the highest qualified individuals;

(b) Selection of Judges, including the possibility of the application of the "Missouri" plan in Maryland as well as the possibility of the application of other plans for judicial selection;

(c) The role of all court related offices under the Code or Constitution and the possibility of consolidation under the Judicial Branch;

(d) Problems of the Judicial budget and the monetary needs to insure proper administration of justice;

(e) All aspects concerning the delay between the initiation of a court action and trial, including the use and application of jury trials in this State;

(f) The procedure of arrest, indictment or information in criminal cases;

(g) The civil procedure now in existence and measures which may be taken to simplify procedures;

(h) The seeking of cooperation of all branches of government and educational institutions of this State to study and make recommendations to increase the efficiency of the Judicial Branch of Government and to promote justice; and