

Commission to Review Laws Governing Workmen's Compensation Laws and the Legislative Council to study the feasibility of an Interstate Workmen's Compensation Compact.

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland, like other states, has long had the responsibility for providing the legal and administrative framework for the protection of employers and employees against liability for work injuries and the consequences thereof; and

WHEREAS, The structure and operation of government at the state level is best suited to the formulation of policy and implementation of workmen's compensation laws; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has created, implemented and administered an excellent body of workmen's compensation laws and the continuing and effective implementation of changes and administration of workmen's compensation laws are important to and of great benefit to the citizens of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The State is responsive to periodic suggestions that workmen's compensation laws be improved through change and supplement; and

WHEREAS, Interstate cooperation can contribute greatly to the improvement of the workmen's compensation laws of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Failure of the State to maintain effective administration of workmen's compensation laws may result in assumption by the federal government of authority in what previously has been primarily a state function; and

WHEREAS, A specific federal legislative item, S. 2008 (Javits), entitled "The National Workers' Compensation Standards Act of 1973", if passed, could undermine the current workmen's compensation law systems in many states by, among other things, making uniform all significant policy decisions applicable within the State and creating an unnecessarily rigid pattern of administrative procedures; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Governors Conference, on September 26, 1973, unanimously adopted a resolution urging that an Interstate Compact be created to include member states for the purposes of (1) reforming the workmen's compensation laws through mutual exchange of information, and (2) preserving effective state administration of workmen's compensation laws; now, therefore, be it