

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Maryland Council on Higher Education.

Approved April 22, 1975.

No. 33

{House Joint Resolution 24}

A House Joint Resolution concerning

[[Banking Services for the Poor]]
Distribution Services for Food Stamps

FOR the purpose of requesting [[banks]] certain institutions to help the poor and sell food stamps during the regular [[banking]] business hours.

WHEREAS, The banks of Maryland are to be commended for the adoption of the policy whereby all banks will cash public assistance checks under the same terms, conditions, and hours of service as they cash any other check. This will mean that the welfare recipients dependence on the corner grocery or liquor store to cash checks for a fee or an obligation to make a purchase will be greatly diminished; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this policy will save the State of Maryland an estimated \$200,000 per year because the recipient will carry tamper-proof identification cards that will cause a sharp curtailment of stolen and forged welfare checks; and

WHEREAS, [[However, the poor and needy of Maryland face another problem whose effects could be greatly diminished if the banks of Maryland would use their efforts to aid these people.]] There is a critical shortage of locations that handle the sale of food stamps and this imposes a hardship not only on welfare recipients, but also on the large numbers of the working poor who are eligible for help in stretching their food dollar; and

WHEREAS, The food stamp program is a federal program which the federal government should effectuate by allowing the Postal Service to sell and distribute food stamps; and

WHEREAS, Because of their instant cash value, food stamps have to be sold under secure conditions, but of