

FOR the purpose of requesting the appointment of a Commission for the Hearing Impaired; and generally relating to that Commission.

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 267,000 citizens of Maryland suffer from hearing impairment;

WHEREAS, The educational, social, vocational and medical needs of many hearing impaired persons may not be adequately met at this time;

WHEREAS, Many hearing impaired people could benefit from further representation in Maryland at the policy making and program development level;

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland suffers economic loss due to underemployment and unemployment of the hearing impaired population;

WHEREAS, There is a large group of Maryland's population not being identified as hearing impaired; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor of the State of Maryland appoint a permanent Commission of which more than 50 percent shall be hearing impaired individuals representative of Maryland's hearing impaired population to represent the interests and needs of the hearing impaired individuals of the State of Maryland to:

a. Investigate, assess, and make public the needs and interests of hearing impaired people;

b. Investigate and assess to what extent current programs, organizations, and agencies are attempting and succeeding in meeting these needs;

c. To advise, assist, and work with various State and local government agencies and programs concerned with the needs of the hearing impaired;

d. Report and recommend to the Governor necessary legislative and funding initiatives to implement programs to further the interests of the hearing impaired citizens of Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable Marvin Mandel, Governor.

Approved April 13, 1976.