

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Richard L. Dunham, Chairman, Federal Power Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20000; and to the Office of the People's Counsel, 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Approved May 4, 1976.

No. 68

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 31)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Task Force on Collective Bargaining for Public Employees

FOR the purpose of requesting the President of the Senate [[and]], Speaker of the House of Delegates and the Governor to create a legislative task force to consider whether collective bargaining rights should be extended to additional public employees and to prepare workable legislation on the matter for submission to the 1977 General Assembly if the task force determines that such rights should be granted.

The issue of the relationship between public employees and public employers has, in recent years, become one of the most complex and critical of those confronting State and local government. In the past, numerous measures have been introduced in the General Assembly which would extend to public employees in Maryland the right to meet, confer, and otherwise bargain collectively with their respective employers — whether State, county, or municipal — on matters relating to salaries and benefits. There are a number of very basic questions which must be addressed by the Legislature in the near future. Among these are whether or not to extend to additional public employees the right to collectively bargain and, if so, under what circumstances and through what procedures that bargaining ability would be exercised. Because of the importance of this issue, the General Assembly should have the benefit of a comprehensive and thorough review of the subject by Members of both Houses and of nonmembers that can be undertaken during the legislative interim that will consider:

(1) Whether or not collective bargaining rights should be extended to additional public employees; and

(2) If collective bargaining rights are to be extended, the development and preparation of a practical and effective legislative proposal for consideration to effect that end; now, therefore, be it