

No. 83\*

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 62)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Review of Budget Process and Legislative Oversight

FOR the purpose of requesting the Policy Committee to direct a review of the budget process and legislative oversight and to report its findings to the General Assembly by no later than December 1, 1976.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland is constantly reviewing and improving its procedures in order to ~~[[reestablish]]~~ re-establish its position as a co-equal branch of government; and

WHEREAS, Despite these efforts, the public is dissatisfied with the size and unresponsiveness of government at all levels, as has been demonstrated by a recent finding by pollster Louis Harris that "72~~[[%]]~~percent of the public no longer feel they get good value from their tax dollars"; and

WHEREAS, The oversight efforts of the Joint Budget and Audit Committee and the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review should be complemented by similar oversight efforts by the nonfiscal ~~[[committee]]~~ committees of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Fiscal Services has prepared, under the supervision of the Joint Budget and Audit Committee, a paper — "Analysis and Evaluation of the Statewide Budget Procedures" — setting forth in detail alternative budget procedures for consideration by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly's ongoing self-examination should be directed to a study of the legislative role in the process by which the State budget and programs are developed, approved, and executed and of the manner in which the ~~[[legislature]]~~ Legislature oversees the laws that it enacts. The study should result in a recommendation of a process by which the General Assembly's fiscal and nonfiscal committees coordinate periodic reviews designed to guarantee that the State's programs are achieving intended results and delivering intended services to intended beneficiaries in an effective and efficient manner and that the State's agencies and departments are accountable to the General Assembly and the public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Policy Committee direct ~~[[a review of the budget~~