

No. 87*

(House Joint Resolution No. 142)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Program Evaluation and Zero-Base Budgeting

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to submit with the annual budget bill a statistical summary of each program administered by a State agency, department, commission or board, including in the summary certain factors relating to the output, cost and effectiveness of each program; requesting that certain statistical measures be developed for each program and that procedures be developed for obtaining and utilizing data for certain programs; requesting that maximum utilization for certain purposes be made of program information required for certain other purposes; requesting that the Governor submit with the budget bill a detailed list from each department, agency, commission or board of the programs, positions, and costs which it would elect to alter if its budget were changed by certain amounts; requesting that this list be accompanied by a plan for retention of any State employees affected by proposed program eliminations; and placing certain conditions on transfers and retentions under any proposed eliminations.

WHEREAS, The fiscal process, particularly in the area of appropriations, is the most important continuing policy tool available to the Legislature, as it is to the Executive; and

WHEREAS, Informed legislative decision making in the fiscal process requires a knowledge of the costs and benefits of the various programs competing for State revenues; and

WHEREAS, Such information about State programs is not now currently available in convenient, comparative form; and

WHEREAS, Such information would be of great utility in evaluating the annual budget; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That this Body requests the Governor of Maryland to select a demonstration department or agency or major component thereof, and to submit with the next annual budget bill a statistical summary of each program administered thereby [[by a State department, agency, commission or board]] down to the level of the smallest program or component which is reasonably identifiable, including