

WHEREAS, The American Bar Association (ABA) has released for study a Model Procurement Code which is being examined in detail by a Special Committee on State and Local Public Contract Law formed by the Maryland Bar Association and which is also being reviewed by other professional associations and government groups; and

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Affairs and Government Operations Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference at a recent meeting endorsed the Model Procurement Code concept and recommended that states represented in the conference consider enactment of legislation to provide for serious study and consideration, with a view to adoption, of the Code; and

WHEREAS, The Federal General Accounting Office (GAO) has issued a report to Congress indicating that the Maryland method of procuring professional services may provide guidance for Federal practices; and

WHEREAS, The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) has conducted research on purchasing practices in 15 states, including Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO) under the aegis of the Council of State Governments, and through financial support by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) has recently completed a thorough study of purchasing by State and local governments which is the first comprehensive research effort on this subject encompassing the law, regulations, policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, The total dollar volume of State and local government purchasing has grown dramatically during the past decade to approximately \$76 billion compared with that of the entire Federal government estimated at about \$54 billion; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for the establishment of a system of coordinated and, to the extent feasible, uniform purchasing and procurement practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly finds that sound purchasing operations contribute greatly to the economical and effective operation of the State government, and of even greater importance at this time, they are basic to public confidence and trust in government; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly is requested to establish a Purchasing and Procurement Policies Task