

FOR the purpose of requesting the appointment of a legislative committee to study the condition and safety of the bridge over the Choptank River between Talbot and Dorchester Counties at Cambridge.

WHEREAS, There is general concern for a number of reasons over the condition of the bridge over the Choptank River between Talbot and Dorchester Counties at the City of Cambridge. The structure of the bridge is suspect and should be examined to determine whether it is sound. Particular attention should be called to the integrity of the superstructure and of the structure at low tide, the latter to determine whether the foundation is secure. Memories of the Denton bridge problem loom large.

Having been dedicated in 1936, the bridge has seen a tremendous change since then in the volume, weight, and size of the traffic it must bear. Not only have passenger vehicles increased in weight, size, and speed, but also there has been a similar increase in commercial vehicles, tractor-trailers, earth moving equipment, and the like. The bridge was not designed for either the size or volume of this kind of traffic.

As a result of the increase in size and volume of traffic, there has been a distinct increase in the number and severity of accidents. The roadbed is too narrow for the kind of traffic it handles and motorists who experience mechanical difficulties are in peril from the traffic that speeds by.

Finally, warm weather weekend sun-seekers regularly clog the bridge and approaches with traffic. This prevents the local citizens who must rely on the structure from utilizing it fully; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates are requested to appoint a bridge investigating committee to review the condition and safety of the Choptank River Bridge at Cambridge and to report its findings to the General Assembly in the 1981 Session; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Choptank Bridge Committee be composed of five members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President, and five members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker; and be it further

RESOLVED, That staff and secretarial support services for the Choptank Bridge Committee be provided by the State Highway Administration and the Department of Legislative Reference; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable James Clark, Jr., President of the Senate; the Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, Speaker of the House of

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