

standards, policies, and practices concerning the transportation of handicapped children to and from special education programs and make appropriate recommendations.

WHEREAS, Accredited nonpublic special education facilities and programs in the State are an integral part of the special education services necessary to appropriately serve handicapped children in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, During the 1980-81 school year approximately 99,000 handicapped children were enrolled in Maryland nonpublic and public special education programs; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing problem and concern about the safe and efficient daily transportation of handicapped children by local education agencies to and from nonpublic special education facilities; and

WHEREAS, Many local education agencies throughout the State utilize varied means to transport such children in either taxicabs, minibuses, vans, or automobiles without appropriate and necessary safety devices or adequate number of supervisory aides for the children during such transportation; and

WHEREAS, There is also great variability in the efficiency of routing and excessive time in the length of rides among local transportation to the point where some children are required to ride in excess of 90 minutes each way to and from school; and

WHEREAS, There are no consistent guidelines for the training of drivers or aides involved in the transportation of such handicapped children although many of these students present unique problems and attention relative to their transportation; and

WHEREAS, Since there exists no recommended procedure or policy for coordination or cooperation among local education agencies in the transportation of handicapped children to nonpublic education facilities, there is a need to clarify and resolve such procedure and policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Legislative Policy Committee is requested to appoint a commission to study the current law, regulations, standards, policies, and practices concerning the transportation of handicapped children to and from nonpublic special education facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this commission should consist of:

- (1) 6 members of the General Assembly;
- (2) The Chairman of the Public Service Commission or his designee;