

No. 24

(House Joint Resolution No. 50)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Higher Education - Governor's Commission

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to establish the Commission on Excellence in Higher Education; authorizing the Commission to examine and report to the Governor concerning the status of funding and the quality of higher education in Maryland; specifying certain questions for the Commission to address; specifying membership in the Commission; specifying the composition of an advisory board for the Commission; requesting the Governor to supply staff for the Commission; and providing for reports.

WHEREAS, An excellent system of comprehensive education is essential to the full development of each citizen of the State of Maryland, to the preservation of an enlightened self-governing citizenry, and to the continued economic development of our State in an era of technological change and innovation; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has acted with determination and vigor to support elementary and secondary education throughout our State, and to require accountability in the use of State funds, to assure to all its citizens a sound basic education; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's colleges and universities--both public and independent--are also vital instruments in the effort to assure intellectual growth, innovative research, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, It is vital that the diversity of programs and institutions, the accessibility of higher education and training, the excellence and quality of all our colleges and universities be adequately maintained and enhanced, while assuring the effective use of State funds; and

WHEREAS, Recent years of high inflation have seriously harmed the ability of these colleges and universities to maintain the high quality of program and of facilities required for a strong and excellent system; and

WHEREAS, The effects of inflation may be seriously compounded by proposed reduction of federal assistance to these institutions and to students; and

WHEREAS, Methods currently employed to determine the level and distribution of State support of higher education were appropriate in past decades of increasing enrollment but may no longer be appropriate in an era of stable or declining