

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

to report on and make recommendations for the improvement and enhancement of vocational agricultural education programs.

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland recognizes the importance of assuring all students a broad range of educational choices; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture is one of the major industries in the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The cost of operating public educational institutions has steadily risen over the years; and

WHEREAS, This cost increase has resulted in inadequate agricultural programs at all educational levels of instruction; and

WHEREAS, This cost increase has also led to an inadequate supply of qualified agricultural teachers and other qualified experts in the agriculture field; and

WHEREAS, The existence of adequate educational facilities in vocational agriculture at the secondary level, postsecondary technical training, and teacher training in agriculture at the university level is a well recognized benefit to the agriculture industry and the State's economy and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The State agencies having program responsibilities in the agriculture field have been collecting data with little regular or ongoing interaction with other agencies; consequently, this data is often not uniform or consistent; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to accurately project manpower needs in the field of agriculture in order to improve the planning of agricultural education programs; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to establish a statewide computer based data network for compiling accurate employment statistics in the agriculture field; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to provide sufficient funds to support improvements and developments in the field of vocational agriculture education and other agricultural education programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to establish a Committee to study existing programs and policies concerning vocational agricultural education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee shall study, report on, and make recommendations for the improvement and enhancement of agricultural education programs at all educational levels; and be it further