

Baltimore, Maryland 21201; the Honorable Robert C. Murphy, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, Court of Appeals Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; and William S. Ratchford II, Director of the Department of Fiscal Services, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Signed May 13, 1986.

No. 30

(House Joint Resolution No. 59)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Requiring Congressional Votes to be Public and Recorded

FOR the purpose of petitioning the House of Representatives of the United States and the Senate of the United States to reform their Rules by providing that all votes on final passage of legislation be recorded for public scrutiny and accountability.

WHEREAS, 1987 is the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States, a Constitution which established, for the first time, a large democratic republic in which the persons charged with making decisions on behalf of all the citizens are held accountable by those citizens regularly in elections; and

WHEREAS, In our democratic republic, it is essential that laws be voted upon in public, with the votes of the representatives of the people cast and recorded publicly, so that the voters may know how their representatives vote; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland, in the Rules of the Senate of Maryland and Rules of the House of Delegates, requires that votes on final passage of all legislation, both in the Standing Committees and on the Floors of the two Houses, be cast in public and be recorded for public scrutiny and accountability; and

WHEREAS, The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America can, and regularly do, enact into law legislation seriously and permanently affecting the incomes, activities, and very lives of millions of citizens, and the defense of the entire nation, without casting a recorded vote; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives, on December 18, 1985, did pass the so-called Tax Reform Act of 1985, a bill changing the tax obligations of all citizens, and changing provisions affecting millions of dollars, on the basis of a voice vote, with no recorded vote requested or cast; now, therefore, be it