

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

Signed May 27, 1988.

No. 4

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 12)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

The United States District Court for
the District of Maryland - Southern Division

FOR the purpose of urging the Congress of the United States to create a Southern Division of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

WHEREAS, The Task Force on the Organization of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland submitted its report on June 1, 1986, recommending that Congress create a new division of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland to be known as the "Southern Division" comprising Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force found a "strong and compelling need" for the creation of a court to serve this area and to provide equal access to the federal courts for the citizens living in those counties; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force was chaired by a senior member of the Eastern Shore trial bar and included 3 former presidents of the Maryland State Bar Association, 2 judges, senior attorneys from the public and private sectors, and a distinguished layman from Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, Federal courts should be located in areas where the major concentrations of population and business are centered; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force found that by 1990, more than one-third of the population of Maryland will be in the area of the proposed Southern Division; that this area is the fastest growing section of the State, growing at almost twice the rate as the rest of the State; that the population of Baltimore City is decreasing; that 28% or more of the lawyers in the State reside in the proposed Southern Division; that the business base of the 5 counties in the proposed Southern Division is approximately equal to that of Baltimore City and the remaining 18 counties combined; and that the highest levels of education and median income in the State are in the proposed Southern Division; and

WHEREAS, One Bankruptcy Court Judge, one U.S. Magistrate, one-third of the Probation Office, a Deputy Clerk in charge, two