

Joint Resolution No. 3

(House Joint Resolution No. 4)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Special Study Commission on the Maryland Public Ethics Law

FOR the purpose of establishing a Special Study Commission on the Maryland Public Ethics Law; providing for the membership and staffing of the Commission; specifying the duties of the Commission; requiring the Commission to report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Special Study Commission on the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

WHEREAS, When the Maryland Public Ethics Law was enacted in 1979, the General Assembly codified the ethics provisions of the House and Senate Rules; and

WHEREAS, For policy reasons, the General Assembly followed the text of the House and Senate Rules provisions almost verbatim, making only stylistic changes; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, various changes have been made to the General Assembly portion of the Maryland Public Ethics Law; and

WHEREAS, The need has arisen to make a careful examination of the Maryland Public Ethics Law as it relates to the General Assembly and its members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND; That:

(a) There is a Special Study Commission on the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

(b) The Commission shall consist of the following 15 members:

(1) The majority leaders of the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates;

(2) The minority leaders of the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates;

(3) The co-chairmen of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics; and

(4) Nine members of the general public, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

(c) The chairman of the Commission shall be appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

(d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Commission.