

to a task force to study the governance, coordination, and funding of the University System of Maryland.

WHEREAS, Nearly 10 years have passed since the General Assembly and Governor created the Maryland Charter for Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, A major State recession in the early 1990's dramatically affected funding for higher education and only now, despite the strong efforts of the Governor and General Assembly for four years, is public higher education funding back to its pre-recession level and a more stable funding source is necessary to meet the goals of the Charter; and

WHEREAS, The duties and potential overlap of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, and the presidents of the constituent institutions of the University System, deserve review in light of the experience gained since 1988 and the State's continuing interest in a public higher education system with the accountability necessary to achieve a highly skilled and productive workforce; and

WHEREAS, An examination of the State's funding priorities to broaden and sustain the national reputation of public higher education in Maryland, including its flagship university, historically Black institutions, research institutions, and the comprehensive institutions, should be undertaken; and

~~WHEREAS, In order to meet the changing role of higher education for Maryland citizens, it is necessary to review the State's fiscal and licensure policies towards emerging electronic education, distance education, and other nontraditional delivery mechanisms of instruction and training in both credit and noncredit, profit and nonprofit, public and private colleges and universities; and~~

WHEREAS, The University System of Maryland was founded in order to reduce unnecessary expenditures and duplication and to enhance both management accountability and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, The University System of Maryland today costs more than \$10 million per year and potentially duplicates many of the functions existing within its constituent institutions, and may require changes to enhance the ability of the institutions to respond efficiently and effectively to the needs of the workforce in a high technology environment; and

WHEREAS, Within this context of changing technology and educational needs it is critical to review those functions and costs of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the University System of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, There is a marked disparity in funding per full-time equivalent undergraduate students among the University System of Maryland institutions as well as between University System of Maryland institutions and other public comprehensive institutions outside the University System of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the formation of the University System of Maryland, two research institutions have been established, general fund support for University