

No. 66

(House Joint Resolution 65)

House Joint Resolution requesting the State Board of Education to expedite the study of the problems involved in the certification of public school teachers in the State of Maryland and to make a report of its findings to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, The problems which have arisen in the certification of public school teachers in the State have been pointedly emphasized by recent press accounts of the denial by the Division of Certification of the State Department of Education of the certification of a teacher who had moved from a teaching position in Baltimore City (which separately evaluates its teachers credentials) to a position in Baltimore County; and

WHEREAS, The teacher involved was informed by the State that she lacked 21 additional credits for certification, by the State, despite the fact that she holds a master's degree in education, had taught as a certified teacher in other states for five years and had been highly recommended by her superiors in the Baltimore City schools; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Education issued to the teacher a provisional certificate, which requires her to make up the lacking credits in summer school or evening courses, and the action taken has caused her a reduction in salary; and

WHEREAS, The teacher in question has announced that she will take additional courses for a doctorate in education rather than the additional credits required by the State and will resign from her teaching position as the result of the action of the State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Certification has stated that the teacher failed to meet the State's minimum requirements for certification as established in 1961, that the requirements for certification were applied objectively in this case and that a subjective review of each case would be impossible because the staff of four persons in the Division is physically unable to do such a job; and

WHEREAS, The prevailing national teacher shortage may be alleviated in part by more realistic certification requirements which would encourage competent college graduates, who are currently employed in other fields, to consider teaching as a career; and

WHEREAS, Less rigid certification requirements, particularly with regard to specific courses in professional education, may encourage more teachers with successful experience in other states to teach in Maryland, and

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has appointed a special Committee, with laymen in the majority, to study By-laws 610-618 which govern teacher certification in Maryland; now, therefore, be it