

of such former members which they are now receiving or to which they may become entitled under the statutory pension plan now in effect.

II. INTRODUCTION

The past few years have marked a significant period for improvement and modernization of the General Assembly of Maryland, beginning in 1965 with the historic reapportionment of the Senate and House of Delegates. It was in that same year that the Constitutional Convention Commission began its work on a new draft Constitution for the State, including a revised Legislative Article which vested greater responsibility in the General Assembly for self-governance and improved organization.

In addition to the State government's own efforts in behalf of legislative reform through reapportionment and constitutional revision, citizen interest and study of the problem began in 1966. That concern culminated in January, 1967, with a report by the Citizens Commission on the General Assembly, which recommended constitutional, administrative and procedural changes for the Legislature. Concurrently, the General Assembly itself commissioned a study to develop in-depth analysis of its then-existing practices and procedures, with recommendations for improvement. At the end of 1967, and after searching examination of the problem, the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University submitted a report which in many respects paralleled the proposals by the earlier citizens' study.

For two years, 1968 and 1969, the General Assembly, through its Legislative Council, conducted a comprehensive review of the two studies. Recommendations on Senate and House organization, committee reorganization, budget and finance, staffing and facilities, and conflicts-of-interest were studied by the Council. And many of these recommendations have been adopted—some as proposed and others with revisions.

Major changes in the Maryland Legislative Article, as part of a proposed new Constitution, were adopted by the 1967-68 Constitutional Convention. That Constitution was defeated at the polls on May 14, 1968. Although the defeat of a proposed Constitution has delayed certain constitutional revisions, the citizens of Maryland have basically provided a forward thrust to modernization of the Legislative Branch through 1970 amendments to the Constitution that (1) have lengthened the annual session from 70 to 90 days and (2) have created a compensation commission to study improvement of members' salaries. Improvement of the General Assembly has incorporated efforts to upgrade the salary scale of its members and to identify increased compensation as total compensation. These efforts have been seen by many, including this General Assembly Compensation Commission, as a means of attracting dedicated, competent citizens to public service and of increasing public confidence in our State's legislative process. It is in that spirit that we, the members of the Commission, forward our Resolution and Report to the General Assembly.

III. HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION IN MARYLAND

Each member of the General Assembly receives (1) by constitutional provision, an annual salary of \$2,400 while the two presiding officers each receive per annum \$250 in addition to that amount; (2) by budget item and desk order entered in the journal of each House at the beginning of each session, \$25 per diem expense reimbursement for each day the Legislature is in session; (3) by budget and statute, \$35 per diem compensation for attendance at each meeting of the Legislative Council or committees thereof