

limits of available fiscal resources, requires a thorough study to determine whether modifications of our existing judicial system are needed to make it work more efficiently"; and

WHEREAS, Such a study should be conducted by a commission with broad-based representation from all branches of government and from the private sector; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Legislative Policy Committee be urged to establish a Commission to Study the Judicial Branch of Government; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission consist of ~~17~~ 16 members, as follows: ~~two~~ three members of the Senate of Maryland, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; ~~two~~ three members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three judges, to be appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; three members of the Maryland Bar, at least one with substantial prosecutorial and at least one with substantial criminal defense experience, to be appointed by the President of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.; ~~two representatives of local government, to be appointed by the Governor, two officials of the Executive Branch of State government, to be appointed by the Governor, and~~ three representatives of the public, who shall not be lawyers, judges, or public employees, to be appointed by the Governor; the Governor to appoint the Chairman from among the appointed members of the Commission; and the State Court Administrator shall serve as a nonvoting member; and be it further

RESOLVED, That commission members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission receive staff support from the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice and from the Administrative Office of the Courts; and that all State and local agencies of government are urged to cooperate with the commission by supplying information and advice as requested; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission is urged to study all aspects of the operations of the Judicial Branch of government, including, but not limited to, consolidation and funding of the circuit courts of the several counties and Baltimore City; the allocation of civil, juvenile, and criminal jurisdiction between the circuit courts and the District Court of Maryland; the expanded use of masters in equity matters; the feasibility of a family court; the use of six member juries in the District Court and in the circuit courts; the decriminalization of nonincarcerable