

WHEREAS, Harford County held a symposium on September 28, 1995 for the purpose of encouraging jurisdictional benchmarking so proven strategies of improving operational efficiency and effectiveness could be shared with one another in the spirit of a progressive local government partnership for the future; and

WHEREAS, The State's Legislative Auditor (Office of Legislative Audits, Department of Fiscal Services) recommended in a special report to the Joint Budget and Audit Committee on May 9, 1995, entitled Use of Performance Measures to Improve Accountability, that the State should shift towards performance measuring through statutory directive; and

WHEREAS, Beyond Maryland, (1) the United States Congress mandated that all federal agencies — via the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act — effect performance measuring by the year 2000; (2) that 18 states have enacted legislation to adopt reforms that stress accountability for results through the resource allocation process; and (3) that the Government Finance Officers Association found in a recent study of 554 budgets for counties and cities across the country that 330 or 60% utilize performance measures; and

WHEREAS, Performance-based governance will not solve all the fiscal difficulties facing local governments nor should overnight results be expected; however, it is reflective of the local governments' ongoing commitment to identify and document the programs, policies and practices that govern their usage of scarce financial resources; and

WHEREAS, County and municipal governments in Maryland have always taken pride in being on the "cutting edge" with respect to the efficient delivery of public services and responsiveness to the concerns of their citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Local governments' pursuit of performance-based governance with its reliance on performance measuring is envisioned to bolster public confidence, improve operational efficiency and strengthen accountability in ways that continue to make local governments in Maryland efficiency-related models worthy of emulation; and

WHEREAS, This Resolution should not be construed, either directly or indirectly, as a State mandate for county and municipal governments to initiate performance-based governance; but, instead, to familiarize and inform local governments about the concept so they can determine whether or not it is suitable for guiding their practices and policies through the economic uncertainties of the 1990's; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That local governments of the State are encouraged to consider the concept of performance-based governance with its reliance on performance measuring for its applicability and usage in guiding their practices and policies in order to greet the 21st Century with a competitive advantage; and be it further