

# JOINT RESOLUTIONS

No. 1

(Senate Joint Resolution 2)

Joint Resolution requesting the President of the Senate of Maryland and the Speaker of the House of Delegates to name a special non-partisan commission of persons not directly connected with governmental affairs in Maryland to study and report on the subject of legislative salaries.

WHEREAS, during recent years, there has been much interest in the subject of salaries paid to legislators, not only in Maryland but throughout the entire country; and

WHEREAS, this subject was on the agenda of the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters, which was charged by the Legislative Council with a complete review of salary and compensation problems for the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the State Government; and

WHEREAS, in its report to the Legislative Council, the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters made the following statement in support of the appointment of such a special commission:

“The subject of legislative salaries and emoluments is one of broad concern to the citizens of this and other states to the extent that it may affect the level and nature of operations at the State capitol. There has been considerable action among the various States on this question in recent years despite the general reluctance of legislators to act on their own salaries and their tendency to await precedents elsewhere. Legislative pay was discussed in detail at the Legislative Service Conference held in Seattle in 1956 and the prevailing sentiment was that compensation should be adequate for the time put in. While public office is in an important degree its own reward through the opportunities it provides for service and public recognition, nevertheless the level of official salaries must be high enough to permit all qualified citizens to serve under conditions of dignity and independence. This committee believes that a review of legislative salaries would be desirable. Although any recommendations could not and should not affect the present General Assembly, it is felt that such a review, with recommendations, would be better assured of complete objectivity if it were conducted by a group of impartial and highly respected citizens of the State. The committee therefore recommends that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House name a special non-partisan commission of persons not directly connected with governmental affairs but with competence to judge the factors involved, to conduct a thorough inquiry into legislative

**EXPLANATION:** *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.