

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, The relationships among State and local fiscal systems grow in complexity, as evidenced by increases in the variety of taxing authorities; proliferation of State grants-in-aid to the subdivisions; constant pressure for changes in State aid distribution formulas for education, health services, public safety, and other vital services; and State assumption of heretofore locally administered programs, including property assessments, social services, and mass transit construction; and

WHEREAS, Because of the high level of interdependence among the State and local revenue and taxation systems in Maryland, change in one aspect of the system frequently significantly affects the system's other components; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Commission on Funding of Public Education recently concluded that the State should "move toward a total program that would fund 50 percent of the cost of a basic education program by fiscal 1984," a proposal which highlights the need for further study of the way in which changes in aid distribution formulas should progress through the 1980's; and

WHEREAS, Recently, several local governments have filed a law suit challenging the constitutionality of the current system of financing public education; and

WHEREAS, There is continuing concern as to the level of property taxes in Maryland, including the State property tax as well as property taxes imposed by the various local governments; and

~~WHEREAS, The graduated income tax, enacted by the Legislature in 1967, has remained virtually unchanged notwithstanding numerous proposals concerning rates and brackets, standard deductions, personal exemptions, and combined separate filing status; and~~

WHEREAS, The State and local tax structure, to include property, sales and income taxes, has not been comprehensively examined in the context of the fiscal relationship that exists today between the State and local governments; and

WHEREAS, Only through intensive and continued analysis and evaluation of the State-local fiscal structure in Maryland can sound and responsible means be devised for limiting taxation and spending in the State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor of Maryland, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates are requested to appoint, before May 1, 1979, an Executive-Legislative Task Force to Study State-Local Fiscal Relationships in Maryland; and be it further