

Report  
on  
Additional Judges  
by

Commission on Judicial Administration

In its first interim report (printed as an appendix hereto) the Commission considered and reported on the constitutional amendment proposed by Chapter 607 of the Acts of 1953. Thereafter the subcommittee on additional judges of the Commission reported on the constitutional amendments proposed by chapters 65 and 68 of the Acts of 1954 (also printed as an appendix hereto). Because of the imminence of the general election in November 1954, this report was released before it could be considered by the full Commission.

These reports recommended the rejection of the constitutional amendments considered therein. However, at the November, 1954, general election, the voters of the State adopted all three of the proposed constitutional amendments, although the two proposed by chapters 65 and 68 of the Acts of 1954, by their terms, were inoperative upon the adoption of the amendment proposed by chapter 607 of the Acts of 1953.

The first interim report of the Commission did more. It recommended the establishment of an administrator of the courts. Such an office was informally created by appointment of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the action of the Governor and the Board of Public Works in making available funds for payment of the salary and expenses of a temporary administrative assistant to the Chief Judge. This arrangement has been functioning for slightly over one year. The Commission feels that the worth of its recommendation has been proved and that appropriate

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legislation should now be enacted to make permanent its original recommendation.

In the matter of the need for additional judges, the Commission at the request of the Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City has examined the need for additional associate judges of the Supreme Bench. The Chief Judge earnestly recommended that provision for two additional judges be made and the Commission concurs in his request. Since the adoption of the constitutional amendment proposed by Chapter 607 of the Acts of 1953, the General Assembly may increase the membership of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City (as well as that of the Circuit Courts of the Counties) by simple act of the legislature. The Commission recommends the introduction and enactment of such legislation at the current session of the General Assembly, providing for two additional associate judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

The Commission gratefully acknowledges the diligent work of the members of its subcommittee on the need for additional judges. They are Harry N. Baetjer, Richard F. Cleveland, John F. Lillard, Jr. and Charles Markell.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

By

Chairman