

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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1996 Regular Session
6lr1228

CF 6lr1142

By: Delegates McHale, D. Hughes, Morhaim, and Nathan-Pulliam

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **%Nursing Homes - Alzheimer's Disease - Special Care Disclosure**

3 FOR the purpose of urging all facilities providing specialized care or services for people
4 with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias to provide disclosure to consumers
5 and the appropriate licensing agency or agencies regarding these specialized
6 services.

7 WHEREAS, Long-term care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related
8 dementias needs to be different from the skilled care required by many nursing home
9 residents, or the care and supervision of cognitively intact individuals in residential or
10 other settings; and

11 WHEREAS, Appropriate Alzheimer's care requires a focus on the psychological
12 needs of the individual and provides specific, therapeutic activities and programs
13 designed to maximize the individual's remaining cognitive and physical abilities and to
14 manage the difficult behaviors that are often symptoms of the disease. Inappropriate care
15 results in increased disability and severely reduced quality of life for individuals with
16 Alzheimer's; and

17 WHEREAS, A large number of nursing home and assisted living/domiciliary care
18 residents have dementia, and more facilities nationally and in Maryland are marketing
19 special care units and programs. A study conducted throughout the United States by the
20 National Alzheimer's Association found that a significant percentage of these units and
21 programs do not provide specialized care or activities, do not adapt the environment to
22 meet the patient's needs, do not have appropriate furnishings, do not advise families of
23 alternatives, do not involve families in care and decisions, and do not discuss how staffs
24 are selected and trained for the program; now, therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That any
26 facility which offers to provide or provides specialized care or services for people with
27 Alzheimer's disease or related dementias by means of an Alzheimer's special care
28 unit/program are urged to provide disclosure to consumers, and the appropriate licensing
29 agency or agencies, regarding these specialized services; and be it further

30 **RESOLVED,** That it is in the public interest to provide for the protection of
31 consumers regarding the accuracy and authenticity of claims by facilities providing special
32 care for persons who have Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, and that such
33 facilities are urged to disclose the reasons for those claims, to keep records of such

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1 disclosures, and to report all related information to the appropriate State licensing agency
2 or agencies for examination of the records; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
4 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the
5 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
6 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and to the
7 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc., Baltimore/Central
8 Maryland Chapter at 1850 York Road - Suite D, Timonium, Maryland 21093-5142.