

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Unofficial Copy  
C3

1996 Regular Session  
6lr2948

---

**By: Delegate C. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 1996

Assigned to: Economic Matters

---

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force on Health Care Delivery and Financing**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to establish a Task Force on Health Care  
4 Delivery and Financing to study health care delivery and financing in the State;  
5 specifying the membership, duties, and responsibilities of the Task Force; requiring  
6 the Task Force to issue a certain report; specifying staff support for the Task Force;  
7 and generally relating to requesting the Governor to establish a Task Force on  
8 Health Care Delivery and Financing to study health care delivery and financing in  
9 the State.

10 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland faces two general health care and insurance  
11 problems: access to health insurance and escalating health care costs; and

12 WHEREAS, Currently, there are approximately 700,000 Marylanders who lack  
13 health insurance coverage; and

14 WHEREAS, The cost of providing care to some of these uninsured Marylanders by  
15 hospitals has soared from less than \$50 million in 1977 to more than \$430 million in 1993;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The cost of uncompensated care rose to \$404 million in 1995 from  
18 \$396 million in 1994; and

19 WHEREAS, State and federal policymakers in recent years have been discussing  
20 general approaches to health care financing and delivery reform to make health insurance  
21 coverage more available and more affordable; and

22 WHEREAS, The general approaches discussed have included: "play or pay",  
23 managed competition, and single-payor; and

24 WHEREAS, There needs to be a comprehensive study to examine and find  
25 solutions to make health care more accessible to and health insurance more affordable  
26 for Maryland citizens; now, therefore, be it

27 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the  
28 Governor is requested to establish a Task Force on Health Care Delivery and Financing  
29 to study health care delivery and financing in the State; and be it further

30 **RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall consist of the following members:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2

1 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
2 the Senate;

3 (2) One member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the  
4 Speaker of the House;

5 (3) A representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,  
6 appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;

7 (4) A representative of the Insurance Administration, appointed by the  
8 Insurance Commissioner;

9 (5) A representative of a health maintenance organization, selected by the  
10 Maryland Association of Health Maintenance Organizations;

11 (6) A representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland;

12 (7) A representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of the National Capital  
13 Area;

14 (8) A representative of the Maryland Hospital Association;

15 (9) A representative of the League of Life and Health Insurers;

16 (10) A representative of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland;  
17 and

18 (11) A member of the general public, appointed by the Governor who has  
19 knowledge and expertise in health care financing; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Governor shall designate the Chairman of the Task Force;  
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the  
23 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Insurance Administration; and be it  
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall conduct a study of health care delivery and  
26 financing in the State and, as part of the study, evaluate all possible health care delivery  
27 and financing options related to:

28 (1) Access and the right to professional and competent health care services  
29 for all;

30 (2) Choice in health insurance coverage and the extent to which:

31 (a) Individuals may be able to select health insurance coverage  
32 packages and health care providers; and

33 (b) Physicians retain authority to make decisions about the provision  
34 of health care services to their patients;

35 (3) Portability of health insurance coverage from one employer to another  
36 employer;

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

3

1 (4) Nonexclusion and the extent to which coverage decisions made by health  
2 insurers are not guided by the health status or condition of an applicant or insured;

3 (5) The administrative costs of different health care financing options;

4 (6) Financing equity and the extent to which health care financing options  
5 consider the ability of individuals to pay for care and the effect of injurious products and  
6 processes; and

7 (7) The extent to which long-term costs of health care are mitigated by the  
8 provision of preventive health care services; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That when studying and evaluating the health care delivery and  
10 financing options, the Task Force shall evaluate each option for its impact on specific  
11 groups such as large employers, small employers, public employees, the elderly, the poor,  
12 and the uninsured; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, on or before December, 1997, the Task Force shall report to  
14 the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the  
15 General Assembly on its findings from its study and any recommendations; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That notice of each meeting of the Task Force be made public by  
18 delivering a copy of the meeting notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room B-6,  
19 Department of Legislative Reference, Legislative Services Building, 90 State Circle,  
20 Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than Tuesday  
21 afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
23 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the  
24 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
25 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.