

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Unofficial Copy
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1996 Regular Session
6lr1142

CF 6lr1228

By: Senators Hollinger and Collins

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **%Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes - Alzheimer's Disease - Special Care**
3 **Disclosure**

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2

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; the Alzheimer's
7 Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc., Baltimore/Central Maryland Chapter at
8 1850 York Road - Suite D, Timonium, Maryland 21093-5142; and Sue Ward, Director,
9 Office on Aging.