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By: Delegates Hubbard, Billings, Owings, Oaks, Frush, Morhaim, McHale, Mohorovic,  
D. Davis, Hammen, Nathan-Pulliam, Watson, Klausmeier, Stup, Elliott, Stull, D.  
Hughes, Redmer, Krysiak, Weir, and Guns

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Flexibility in the Provision of Long-Term Care**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing the intent of the General Assembly of Maryland  
4 regarding the provision of long-term care in the State; and directing the Health  
5 Care Financing Administration to be less restrictive in imposing conditions on the  
6 receipt of federal funds for the provision of long-term care in the State and to allow  
7 the State greater flexibility in deciding how to best utilize the funds available for the  
8 provision of long-term care.

9 WHEREAS, Long-term care is utilized by persons over 65 years old, persons with  
10 functional disabilities under 65 years old, persons with developmental disabilities, and  
11 persons with mental illness in this State; and

12 WHEREAS, Demographic trends indicate that expenditures for long-term care will  
13 continue to grow and populations in need of long term care will continue to require  
14 long-term care; and

15 WHEREAS, The individual needs of a person in need of long-term care differ  
16 depending on the nature of the person's disability; and

17 WHEREAS, The purpose of long-term care is to provide assistance in allowing the  
18 individual to function at maximum ability, which may include habilitative services,  
19 rehabilitation, and maintenance of function at optimum levels possible as health status  
20 changes; and

21 WHEREAS, Long-term care recipients often are best served in home- and  
22 community-based settings instead of institutional settings; and

23 WHEREAS, Persons in need of long-term care desire accessible home- and  
24 community-based services to assist them in preserving their independence and preventing  
25 institutionalization; and

26 WHEREAS, Those services should include financial assistance for capital  
27 improvements to the homes of persons in need of long-term care, if the improvements  
28 would enable them to remain in the community; and

1 WHEREAS, Persons in need of long-term care have an overwhelming interest in  
2 the amount of choice and control they will have in their personal care services and should  
3 be accommodated in their desire for "independent living"; and

4 WHEREAS, Persons in need of long-term care should be able to choose accessible  
5 and affordable home- or community-based long-term care as an option to institutional  
6 long-term care; and

7 WHEREAS, Maryland wants the ability to create a higher standard of financial  
8 eligibility for community-based long-term care under the Medical Assistance Program,  
9 thereby helping people remain in the community and avoiding the high costs of  
10 institutionalized care; and

11 WHEREAS, Maryland has a rich array of programs and services available to meet  
12 the needs of those persons who require long-term care in the State; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
14 United States Health Care Financing Administration should be less restrictive in the  
15 conditions it sets on the receipt of federal funds by the State and should allow the State  
16 greater flexibility in deciding how to best utilize the federal funds it receives for the  
17 provision of long-term care; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
19 Legislative Reference to Bruce Vladek, Administrator, HCFA, 200 Independence  
20 Avenue, S.W., Room 314G-HHH, Washington, D.C., 20201; and be it further

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