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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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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 1997

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RESOLUTION NO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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