

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Unofficial Copy  
J1

1997 Regular Session  
7lr2501

---

**By: Senators Amoss and Hollinger**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Finance

---

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force on Organ and Tissue Donation**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to create a Task Force on organ and tissue  
4 donation; specifying the duties of the Task Force; providing for staff support for the  
5 Task Force; specifying the composition of the Task Force; requiring a report by a  
6 certain date; and generally relating to organ and tissue donation.

7 WHEREAS, Individuals who need transplant surgery live daily with  
8 life-threatening medical conditions that prevent them from leading full, healthy, and  
9 active lives; and

10 WHEREAS, These individuals currently require the courage, persistence, and  
11 patience to wait for months or years for a potential appropriate donor; and

12 WHEREAS, Organ or tissue donation can be a lifesaving gift that comforts and  
13 inspires donors and their families by saving and enhancing the lives of others who need  
14 transplant surgery; and

15 WHEREAS, There is a chronic shortage of donor organs resulting in needless  
16 deaths of those who could have benefited from transplant surgery; and

17 WHEREAS, It is desirable to implement sensitive and skillful practices to help  
18 encourage and increase organ and tissue donations; and

19 WHEREAS, Public commitment to organ and tissue donation needs to be inspired  
20 and stimulated by identifying and removing barriers and impediments in protocols and  
21 practices that reduce organ and tissue donations; and

22 WHEREAS, Appropriate persons must collaborate and coordinate efforts to review  
23 and evaluate the current system that supports organ and tissue donations; and

24 WHEREAS, Those persons must also make recommendations that will allow more  
25 lives to be saved through transplantation; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
27 Governor is requested to create a Task Force on Organ and Tissue Donation; and be it  
28 further

29 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall:

1 (1) review and evaluate the current organ and tissue donation protocols,  
2 practices, and laws in the State; and

3 (2) report to the Governor, and subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government  
4 Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 1997; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the report shall:

6 (1) make recommendations for any changes in law or practice that are needed to:

7 (i) ensure that the wishes of organ or tissue donors are implemented;

8 (ii) identify ways to increase the number of potential donors; and

9 (iii) work more effectively with potential organ donors and their families;  
10 and

11 (2) include any proposed legislation prepared to be considered by the General  
12 Assembly during the 1998 Session; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of not more than 20 individuals,  
14 including:

15 (1) a member of an organ donor's family;

16 (2) an organ recipient;

17 (3) representatives from agencies that support organ, tissue, and eye recovery in  
18 the State including the Transplant Resource Center of Maryland, Inc., the Medical Eye  
19 Bank of Maryland, the Lions Eye Bank of Seabrook, and the Washington Regional  
20 Transplant Consortium;

21 (4) individuals who perform or support transplant surgery;

22 (5) a representative of the Medical Examiner's Office;

23 (6) a representative of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services  
24 System;

25 (7) emergency services field personnel;

26 (8) representatives of health insurance provider organizations;

27 (9) a representative of the State Attorney General;

28 (10) a representative of the Department of State Police; and

29 (11) a representative of the Motor Vehicle Administration; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Department of Fiscal Services and the Department of  
31 Legislative Reference shall provide staff support for the Task Force; and be it further

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

