

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

Unofficial Copy  
J1

1998 Regular Session  
8lr2768

---

By: **Senator Sfikas**

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 1998

Assigned to: Rules

---

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Insurance Coverage for Cancer Screening Tests**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the State Council on Cancer Control to prepare a  
4 study of insurance coverage for certain screening tests for cancer and to report  
5 its results to the Governor and General Assembly by a certain date.

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 10,000 Maryland residents die from cancer each  
7 year; and

8 WHEREAS, Cancer is currently the second leading cause of death among  
9 Maryland residents but may exceed heart disease during the next century; and

10 WHEREAS, The majority, 54%, of the Maryland cancer deaths are from lung  
11 and bronchus, colon and rectum, breast, and prostate cancers; and

12 WHEREAS, Screening tests for breast, colon and rectum, and prostate cancer  
13 will decrease cancer mortality rates; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1997 an estimated 25,700 new cancer cases were diagnosed in  
15 Maryland; and

16 WHEREAS, Screening examinations, conducted regularly by health care  
17 professionals, can result in the detection of breast, tongue, mouth, colon, rectum,  
18 cervix, prostate, testis, and melanoma cancers at earlier stages when treatment is  
19 more likely to be successful; and

20 WHEREAS, More than 50% of all new cancer cases are identified in these nine  
21 screening accessible sites; and

22 WHEREAS, The relative survival rate of these cancers would increase from 80%  
23 to more than 95% if all Americans regularly have cancer screening tests, including:

24 (1) Breast cancer - mammography;

25 (2) Cervix (uterus) cancer - Pap test, performed as part of a pelvic exam,  
26 for women who are sexually active or who are at least 18 years old;

1           (3)     Colon and rectum cancer - digital rectal exam, fecal occult blood test,  
2 and sigmoidoscopy, performed annually for individuals who are at least 40 years old;

3           (4)     Endometrium cancer - Pap test, performed annually as part of a  
4 pelvic exam, for women who are at least 40 years old;

5           (5)     Oral cavity and pharynx cancer - affects any part of the oral cavity,  
6 detected by a dentist or primary care physician during regular checkups;

7           (6)     Ovary cancer - periodic pelvic exams paired with a Pap test,  
8 performed annually for women who are least 40 years old; and

9           (7)     Prostate cancer - digital rectal exam, performed annually for men  
10 who are least 40 years old; and

11        WHEREAS, The State Council on Cancer Control was established in 1991 to  
12 lead a comprehensive statewide effort to prevent and control cancer among Maryland  
13 residents, as well as to advise the Governor, government officials, public and private  
14 organizations, and the general public on comprehensive State policies and programs  
15 to reduce and control the incidence and mortality of cancer among Maryland  
16 residents; and

17        WHEREAS, The Council has helped to improve public education about risk  
18 reduction, and increase coordination between public and private agencies in targeting  
19 prevention and treatment services; and

20        WHEREAS, The 1998 legislative agenda of the Council includes supporting  
21 insurance coverage for patients entered into clinical trials and supporting programs  
22 that provide access to mammography and Pap screening, especially among minorities  
23 and the underinsured and uninsured; now, therefore, be it

24        RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State  
25 Council on Cancer Control is requested to prepare a study of insurance coverage,  
26 including private and State programs, for Marylanders for cancer screening tests as  
27 suggested for individuals of certain ages at certain intervals; and be it further

28        RESOLVED, That the State Council on Cancer Control shall issue a report of its  
29 findings to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government  
30 Article, to the General Assembly by December 1, 1998; and be it further

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