

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

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1998 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Sfikas**

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 1998

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, March 11, 1998

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 27, 1998

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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, skin, and prostate cancers; and

12 WHEREAS, Screening tests for breast, colon and rectum, skin, and prostate
13 cancer 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

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

3 (1) Breast cancer - mammography;

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (8) Skin cancer - full body examination, performed triannually for men
17 and women who are at least 20 but under 40 years old and annually for men and
18 women who are at least 40 years old; and

19 WHEREAS, The State Council on Cancer Control was established in 1991 to
20 lead a comprehensive statewide effort to prevent and control cancer among Maryland
21 residents, as well as to advise the Governor, government officials, public and private
22 organizations, and the general public on comprehensive State policies and programs
23 to reduce and control the incidence and mortality of cancer among Maryland
24 residents; and

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

28 WHEREAS, The 1998 legislative agenda of the Council includes supporting
29 insurance coverage for patients entered into clinical trials and supporting programs
30 that provide access to mammography, full body skin cancer screening, and Pap
31 screening, especially among minorities and the underinsured and uninsured; now,
32 therefore, be it

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

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

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