

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

Unofficial Copy
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1999 Regular Session
9r0731
CF 9r1810

By: **Delegates Taylor, Goldwater, Hubbard, and J. Kelly**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force on Medical Record Confidentiality**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Medical Record Confidentiality to
4 review the medical record confidentiality laws of the State; providing for the
5 composition, quorum, and meetings of the Task Force and for certain
6 reimbursement for its members; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain
7 report on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of the Task
8 Force; and generally relating to a Task Force on Medical Record Confidentiality.

9 WHEREAS, It is of the utmost importance that medical privacy be maintained
10 by physicians and other health care providers to treat their patients effectively; and

11 WHEREAS, Medical record confidentiality presents a challenge in a health care
12 system where employers, insurers, public health researchers, government entities,
13 health care providers, and medical institutions regularly transmit medical
14 information; and

15 WHEREAS, All parties have a legitimate need for certain types of information to
16 complete their appropriate missions; and

17 WHEREAS, The right of a patient to protection of the patient's medical privacy
18 should be paramount; and

19 WHEREAS, The emergence of computer technology has accelerated the
20 dispersal of information, including medical information; and

21 WHEREAS, As Maryland approaches the year 2000, a review concerning the
22 privacy protections accorded medical information and the appropriate dissemination
23 of that information is necessary; now, therefore, be it

24 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That there is a
25 Task Force on Medical Record Confidentiality which shall review the medical record
26 confidentiality laws of the State; and be it further

27 **RESOLVED**, That the Task Force shall be composed of:

28 (1) 3 members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
29 House;

1 (2) 3 members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
2 the Senate; and

3 (3) 12 members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

4 (i) 2 licensed physicians;

5 (ii) 2 representatives of the health insurance industry;

6 (iii) 1 representative of the pharmaceutical industry;

7 (iv) 1 representative of a medical institution that is engaged in
8 medical research;

9 (v) 1 representative of an interest group that is interested in
10 medical confidentiality;

11 (vi) 1 representative from an agency of the State that is involved in
12 the collection of medical data;

13 (vii) 1 representative from the business community;

14 (viii) 1 representative from organized labor; and

15 (ix) 2 consumer members from the general public who are not
16 associated with any groups specified in this paragraph; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That:

18 (1) the members of the Task Force shall select a chairperson from the
19 membership of the Task Force;

20 (2) 7 members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum;

21 (3) the Task Force shall determine the times and places of its meetings;
22 and

23 (4) staffing for the Task Force shall be provided by the Department of
24 Legislative Services; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a member of the Task Force:

26 (1) may not receive compensation; but

27 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
28 Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That, on or before December 1, 1999, the Task Force shall submit
30 a report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to
31 the General Assembly with recommendations for legislative action in the General
32 Assembly Session for the year 2000; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the existence of the Task Force shall terminate on December
2 1, 1999; and be it further

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