

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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1999 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Frosh, Conway, Ruben, Hollinger, Sfikas, Currie, Teitelbaum,
and Exum**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 1999

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Public Health - Task Force on the Quality of Health Care**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Quality of Health Care in
4 Maryland; providing for the membership and staffing of the Task Force;
5 specifying the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the
6 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates on or before
7 a certain date; and generally relating to the creation of a Task Force on the
8 Quality of Health Care in Maryland.

9 WHEREAS, A number of studies, including a recent report of the Institute of
10 Medicine National Roundtable on Health Care Quality, have found that there are
11 serious and widespread problems concerning the quality of medical care in the United
12 States; and

13 WHEREAS, These problems include the overuse and misuse of medical
14 treatments as well as the underuse of medical treatments; and

15 WHEREAS, Quality of care problems occur in small and large communities
16 alike, in all parts of the country, and with approximately equal frequency in managed
17 care and fee-for-service systems of care; and

18 WHEREAS, Health care quality problems have resulted in numerous
19 preventable deaths and needless expense to the health care system; and

20 WHEREAS, Advances in research have made possible a degree of accuracy in
21 measuring the quality of health care that is comparable to the degree of accuracy of
22 most measures used in clinical medicine; and

23 WHEREAS, Improving the quality of medical care for Maryland residents
24 requires the General Assembly and Governor to have an accurate assessment of
25 where quality may be improved and a well developed plan involving both the public
26 and private sectors for improving the quality of care; now, therefore, be it

27 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
28 Governor is requested to establish a Task Force on the Quality of Health Care to
29 study and assess the quality of health care in Maryland and to submit to the

1 Governor and the General Assembly recommendations for the improvement of the
2 quality of health care in Maryland; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of:

4 (1) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
5 the House, and one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
6 the Senate;

7 (2) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

8 (3) The State Insurance Commissioner;

9 (4) The Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, or the
10 designee of the Dean;

11 (5) The Dean of The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, or the designee
12 of the Dean;

13 (6) The Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing, or the
14 designee of the Dean;

15 (7) The Dean of The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, or the designee of
16 the Dean;

17 (8) The Dean of The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, or the
18 designee of the Dean;

19 (9) An administrator of a hospital, appointed by the Governor;

20 (10) A physician, appointed by the Governor;

21 (11) A representative of the health insurance industry, appointed by the
22 Governor;

23 (12) An expert in health services research from the faculty of a university
24 in the State, appointed by the Governor;

25 (13) An expert in outcomes assessment from the faculty of a university in
26 the State, appointed by the Governor;

27 (14) An expert in clinical epidemiology from the faculty of a university in
28 the State, appointed by the Governor;

29 (15) Three consumers of medical services, appointed by the Governor; and

30 (16) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and
31 the State Insurance Commissioner, as ex officio members; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Governor designate the Chairman of the Task Force from
33 among the members of the Task Force; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings to the Governor and
2 the General Assembly by September 1, 2001, as provided in § 2-1246 of the State
3 Government Article; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the staff and administrative expenses for the Task Force be
5 provided by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That notice of each meeting of the Task Force be made public by
7 delivering a copy of the meeting notice to the Legislative Information Officer, Room
8 B-6, Department of Legislative Services, Legislative Services Building, 90 State
9 Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991. The notice should be delivered no later than
10 Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. for inclusion in the weekly Hearing Schedule; and be it
11 further

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