

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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2000 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Pinsky, Dorman, Kelley, McFadden, Hollinger, Teitelbaum, Della, DeGrange, Lawlah, Currie, Conway, Frosh, Van Hollen, Mitchell, Ruben, Green, Forehand, Stone, Sfikas, Exum, Kasemeyer, Hughes, Dyson, Hoffman, Blount, and Collins**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Health Care for All Marylanders**

3 FOR the purpose of resolving that the Maryland General Assembly is committed to
4 implementing public policy that will provide affordable, quality health care
5 coverage for all Marylanders; resolving that, the Maryland General Assembly
6 encourages a public-private partnership in developing policies to provide health
7 care coverage for all Marylanders; resolving that there is a Panel on
8 Comprehensive Health Care; providing for the membership, leadership,
9 meetings, staffing, and charges of the Panel; requiring the Panel to submit a
10 certain report by a certain date; providing for the termination of the Panel; and
11 resolving that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of
12 Legislative Services to certain individuals.

13 WHEREAS, 837,000 Marylanders, or 16.6 percent of the population, are without
14 health insurance coverage; and

15 WHEREAS, The number of uninsured people in Maryland increased by 160,000
16 from 1997 to 1998; and

17 WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, the number of uninsured people in Maryland
18 has doubled, making Maryland's rate of increase in uninsured residents one of the
19 highest in the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, The number of uninsured Marylanders continues to increase,
21 despite an extended period of economic growth and increased employment and
22 despite the presence of State programs designed to provide health care coverage to
23 uninsured adults and children; and

24 WHEREAS, Health care insurance premiums are projected to rise nearly 10
25 percent in the year 2000; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
27 Maryland General Assembly is committed to implementing public policy that will
28 provide affordable, quality health care coverage for all Marylanders; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly encourages a public-private
2 partnership in developing policies to provide health care coverage for all Marylanders;
3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That:

5 (a) there is a Panel on Comprehensive Health Care;

6 (b) the Panel consists of the following 16 members:

7 (1) three members of the Maryland Health Care Commission, appointed
8 by the Chair;

9 (2) three members of the Health Services Cost Review Commission,
10 appointed by the Chair;

11 (3) the Chair of the Maryland Health Care Foundation, or the Chair's
12 designee;

13 (4) the Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee;

14 (5) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
15 designee;

16 (6) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (7) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House; and

20 (8) three consumer representatives, appointed by the Governor;

21 (c) the Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission shall appoint the
22 Chair of the Panel from among the members of that Commission appointed to the
23 Panel;

24 (d) the Panel shall meet at least four times and at least once in Western
25 Maryland, the Eastern Shore, the Baltimore metropolitan area, and Southern
26 Maryland;

27 (e) the Panel shall advertise its planned regional meetings with sufficient
28 time and in a manner to enable the attendance of citizens in each region;

29 (f) the Panel shall be staffed by the Maryland Health Care Commission;

30 (g) the Panel is charged to:

31 (1) receive testimony from the public on the likely effects of adopting
32 State policies to provide affordable, quality health care coverage for all Marylanders;

1 (2) receive testimony from the public, including groups and
2 organizations with interests in health care, on the best approaches to providing
3 affordable, quality health care coverage for all Marylanders; and

4 (3) prepare an objective summary of the testimony received by the Panel;

5 (h) the Panel shall report its findings to the Governor, and, subject to § 2-1246
6 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly by December 1, 2001; and

7 (i) at the end of December 1, 2001, with no further action required by the
8 General Assembly, the Panel shall be dissolved; and be it further

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