

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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 20, 2000

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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, reimbursement, and charges of the Panel; providing that the  
10 work of the Panel shall be funded as provided for in the State budget; requiring  
11 the Panel to submit a certain report by a certain date; providing for the  
12 termination of the Panel; and resolving that a copy of this resolution be  
13 forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain individuals.

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

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

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

21 ~~WHEREAS, The number of uninsured Marylanders continues to increase,~~  
22 ~~despite an extended period of economic growth and increased employment and~~

1 despite the presence of State programs designed to provide health care coverage to  
 2 uninsured adults and children; and

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

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
 6 Maryland General Assembly is committed to implementing public policy that will  
 7 provide affordable, quality health care coverage for all Marylanders; and be it further

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

11 RESOLVED, That:

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

13 (b) the Panel consists of the following ~~16~~ 17 members:

14 (1) three members of the Maryland Health Care Commission, appointed  
 15 by the ~~Chair~~ Governor;

16 (2) three members of the Health Services Cost Review Commission,  
 17 appointed by the ~~Chair~~ Governor;

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

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

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

23 (6) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
 24 of the Senate;

25 (7) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
 26 the House; ~~and~~

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

28 (9) one licensed physician, appointed by the Governor;

29 (c) the ~~Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission~~ Governor shall  
 30 appoint the Chair of the Panel ~~from among the members of that Commission~~  
 31 ~~appointed to the Panel~~;

32 (d) the Panel shall meet;

33 (1) at least four five times in total; and

1           (2)       at least once in Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore, the Baltimore  
2 metropolitan area, the Washington metropolitan area, and Southern Maryland;

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

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

6       (g)       a member of the Panel:

7           (1)       may not receive compensation; but

8           (2)       is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
9 Travel Regulations, as provided for in the State budget;

10       ~~(g)~~    (h)       the Panel is charged to:

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

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

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

17       ~~(h)~~    (i)       the Panel shall report its findings to the Governor, and, subject to §  
18 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly by December 1, 2001;

19       (j)       the work of the Panel shall be funded as provided for in the State budget;  
20 and

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

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