

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Joint Resolution 31      (Delegate Gladden, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**The AIDS Epidemic in Africa**

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This joint resolution urges the United States President and Congress to advise pharmaceutical companies to provide life saving drugs at low cost to Africans infected with HIV and AIDS.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Compliance with this joint resolution would not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** Africa is home to 70% of the adults and 80% of the children living with HIV in the world. Approximately 17 million Africans have died of AIDS over the past 20 years and HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that 28.1 million adults and children are living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS deaths totaled 3 million globally in 2001, of which 2.3 million occurred in Africa. It is estimated that by the year 2010, there will be 40 million AIDS orphans in Africa.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** *AIDS Relief for Africa: What the West Can Do*, Chinua Akukwe (December 2001); Avert; *AIDS in Africa: Dying by the Numbers*, CNN (2001); AIDS Foundation of South Africa; UNAIDS; Department of Legislative Services

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