

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**Revised**

Senate Joint Resolution 3 (Senator Gladden)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Rules and Executive Nominations

The AIDS Epidemic in Africa

This joint resolution urges the U. S. President and Congress to encourage the use of abstinence programs whenever feasible and to advise pharmaceutical companies to take every conceivable action to make available life-saving drugs at low cost to Africans with HIV and AIDS to stem the tide of the AIDS epidemic.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar resolution, HJ 31, was introduced in the 2002 session. It was not reported from the House Environmental Matters Committee.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2003
mam/cer Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 25, 2003

Analysis by: Susan D. John

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510