

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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B1

2004 Regular Session  
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By: **Senator McFadden**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2004

Assigned to: Rules

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2                                   **Transitional Emergency Medical and Housing Assistance Program -**  
3                                   **Deficiency Appropriation**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the Governor to end a freeze on the Transitional  
5 Emergency Medical and Housing Assistance Program and to increase funds  
6 available for fiscal 2004 for the Program by transferring funds from other  
7 programs or by including in the fiscal 2005 budget a deficiency appropriation for  
8 fiscal 2004 for the Program; providing that a copy of this resolution be  
9 forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to certain individuals; and  
10 generally relating to the Transitional Emergency Medical and Housing  
11 Assistance Program.

12       WHEREAS, The Transitional Emergency Medical and Housing Assistance  
13 Program ("TEMHA") provides cash assistance for poor and disabled adults who are  
14 unable to work due to their disabilities and have no other source of income; and

15       WHEREAS, TEMHA annually serves as a safety net for at least 15,000  
16 childless and disabled adults who are among the State's most vulnerable individuals;  
17 and

18       WHEREAS, Because of an anticipated budget deficit in the Program resulting  
19 from increased numbers of individuals applying for aid and because of a federal  
20 government delay in approving individuals for federal disability aid, the Department  
21 of Human Resources at the beginning of this year instituted a 6-month suspension on  
22 new approvals for aid under TEMHA for fiscal 2004 and has announced that no new  
23 cash assistance for disabled individuals will be approved until the next fiscal year;  
24 and

25       WHEREAS, As a result of the freeze on approval of new assistance under  
26 TEMHA, assistance will be unavailable to thousands of disabled individuals who are  
27 in desperate need of assistance; and

28       WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Transitional  
29 Emergency Medical and Housing Assistance Program have the resources to provide  
30 appropriate services to eligible persons in need; now, therefore, be it

1       RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
2 General Assembly urges the Governor to end the freeze on new approvals for  
3 assistance under TEMHA and to make additional funds available for TEMHA by  
4 transferring funds from other programs or by including a deficiency appropriation for  
5 fiscal 2004 in the fiscal 2005 State budget; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
7 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
8 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the  
9 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Honorable  
10 Christopher J. McCabe, Secretary of the Department of Human Resources.