
By: **Delegates Mandel, Bobo, V. Clagett, Conroy, Cryor, Dumais, Goldwater, Heller, Howard, Kaiser, Lawton, Lee, Madaleno, McComas, Montgomery, Murray, Parker, Pendergrass, and Stern**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **ICE Designation on Cell Phones**

3 FOR the purpose of urging all cell phone users to add the ICE (In Case of Emergency)
4 designation in their cell phone directories next to the names of individuals who
5 could provide vital information in time of crisis.

6 WHEREAS, The cell phone is an indispensable lifeline at times of crisis; and

7 WHEREAS, When disaster strikes, the numbers stored in the address book of a
8 cell phone raise a problem for emergency services personnel trying to notify an
9 individual's next of kin because the emergency workers do not know which number to
10 call; and

11 WHEREAS, A simple initiative conceived by a paramedic in Britain to place the
12 acronym ICE (In Case of Emergency) before the names of next of kin in a cell phone's
13 address book began in April 2005; and

14 WHEREAS, The ICE initiative has gained momentum since the bombings in
15 London in July 2005, when information about the plan spread by e-mail; and

16 WHEREAS, Several next of kin contact systems were set up after the
17 September 11, 2001, attacks, but some charge as much as \$200 per year to register;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The ICE initiative is available free to the 192,000,000 cell phone
20 users in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, The cell phone industry welcomes this initiative; now, therefore, be
22 it

23 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That all cell
24 phone users should be urged to program the acronym ICE (In Case of Emergency)
25 next to the names of emergency contacts in the address books of their cell phone
26 directories and then to tell their ICE contacts that they have been identified as an
27 emergency contact; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Department of Homeland Security, the Maryland
2 Emergency Management Agency, local governments, local organizations for
3 emergency management, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, volunteer
4 fire and rescue companies, hospital associations, the State Medical and Chirurgical
5 Society, sports groups, recreation groups, and other groups and associations that may
6 have to respond to traffic accidents, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and
7 other emergency situations should be urged to spread information to the public about
8 the ICE initiative; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
10 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;
11 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
12 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.