

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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By: **Senators Middleton, Conway, Dyson, Hogan, and Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2007

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Federal Legislation Regarding Medicare Part D and Pharmacy Assistance**
3 **Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland Congressional Delegation to support federal
5 legislation that would clarify that pharmaceutical companies may assist certain
6 Medicare Part D beneficiaries through pharmacy assistance programs; and
7 generally relating to federal legislation regarding Medicare Part D and
8 pharmacy assistance programs.

9 WHEREAS, Medicare Part D, a Medicare prescription drug benefit, was
10 implemented by the federal government to assist senior citizens in obtaining needed
11 medications; and

12 WHEREAS, The majority of prescription drug plans participating in Medicare
13 Part D have a “donut hole”, where the beneficiaries must pay the full costs of their
14 prescription drugs; and

15 WHEREAS, Paying the full costs of prescription drugs may be beyond the
16 means of many senior citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, Many pharmaceutical companies that offer free prescription drugs
18 through their pharmacy assistance programs have been reluctant to serve Medicare
19 Part D beneficiaries that would otherwise meet the terms of their programs, due to
20 concern that assisting these beneficiaries may violate federal law; now, therefore, be it

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
2 General Assembly urges the Maryland Congressional Delegation to support federal
3 legislation that would clarify that pharmaceutical companies may assist Medicare
4 Part D beneficiaries in need through the pharmacy assistance programs of the
5 companies; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
7 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A.
8 Mikulski, and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
9 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P.
10 Sarbanes, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
11 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
12 20515.

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
14 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
15 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
16 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.