

than July 1, 1975, and report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly not later than January 1, 1976; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable Marvin Mandel, Governor, [[and]] Dr. Wilson H. Elkins, President, University of Maryland, and Dr. Steven Muller, President, Johns Hopkins University.

Approved April 8, 1975.

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No. 12

(Senate Joint Resolution 42)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Medicare Coverage

FOR the purpose of requesting the 94th Congress to amend the federal Medicare provisions to reduce the age of eligibility to include certain retired employees.

The present law governing railroad employees permits them to retire with full benefits at the age of 60 with 30 years of service. In addition, Public Law 93-445 permits a railroad employee who takes advantage of this provision to collect a \$70 supplemental pension and permits his spouse to be eligible to collect her annuity at the age of 60.

Under the present terms of the Social Security Act a worker and his spouse may retire and draw benefits at a reduced amount at the age of 62 years.

Several other industries also permit early retirement under conditions similar to that governing railroad employees.

At the present time unemployment is one of the most pressing problems facing the Nation. It is reaching a level in the railroad industry similar to that in other industries because of reduced freight shipments. Penn-Central and seven other Northeast railroads are presently in financial straits which are so dire that CONRAIL will be operating only the profitable lines after 1975. This will lead to abandonment of the other lines and result in large numbers of railroad employees either taking an early retirement or being furloughed.