

No. 6

(Senate Joint Resolution 6)

Senate Joint Resolution to establish the policy of the State of Maryland on housing for elderly persons of low and middle income.

WHEREAS, Maryland has been a leader in participation by non-profit sponsors in building housing for elderly persons of low middle income under Section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, and the General Assembly has encouraged this type of housing by passing Chapter 201 of the Acts of 1966, which authorized the local subdivisions to grant tax relief to such projects in the form of negotiated payments in lieu of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly in 1937 also enacted enabling legislation authorizing the establishment of local housing authorities; and thirteen cities and towns in Maryland have established such authorities, several of which have built housing especially suitable for the elderly, but only two counties have appointed housing authorities; and whereas these housing authorities can be established by action of the County Commissioners or Councils, and the authorities so established would then be able to build housing for the low-income elderly with Federal subsidies without expenditure of County or State funds; therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Maryland that:

1. In the interest of building housing for the lowest income group among the elderly, housing authorities should be established in all counties at the earliest possible date.

2. All such housing authorities and non-profit housing sponsors are urged to provide to the fullest possible extent facilities in these housing projects for such ancillary services as may meet the needs of the tenants in these projects as long as possible, and thus forestall the need for institutionalization.

3. The General Assembly is convinced that there is need for housing which would provide individual units, with congregate kitchen and dining for those for whom independent tenancies are no longer adequate, but institutionalization is not yet necessary. Such housing should provide normal individual living conditions, but in which meals, housekeeping, and personal care services are provided centrally for those elderly who desire or need it. To encourage the construction of such housing, the General Assembly requests the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to amend the regulations adopted under Section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, so as to extend the benefits of Section 202 to non-profit sponsors of congregate housing for the elderly; and in the event that in his judgement such amendment is not authorized under the present language of Section 202, the General Assembly memorializes Congress to amend Section 202 to give non-profit sponsors of congregate housing the benefits of that Section. And be it further

Resolved, That the policy set forth in this joint resolution of the General Assembly of Maryland be submitted to the several counties of this State for their favorable consideration. And be it further