

## No. 53

(House Joint Resolution 76)

House Joint Resolution requesting the Governor to have a committee investigate (1) the feasibility of establishing neighborhood corrective centers to combat the problem of drug and narcotic addiction and (2) the use of methadone in the treatment of addicts.

The damage to individuals, homes, and society from addiction to drugs and narcotics has become a factor of major concern. The seriousness of the problem has been recognized by religious, educational, civic, medical, legal and law enforcement organizations. Baltimore alone has an estimated 1,200 addicts and ranks 7th among the 10 leading cities in narcotic users. The number of users under age 21 had increased 11% on a national level during the first half of 1967.

Addiction to narcotics is at the heart of the crime problem in Maryland. It is estimated that narcotics addicts are responsible for more than one half of the crimes committed in areas of Baltimore City and their evil contagion is spreading into the suburbs. Crime and its threat to the personal safety of our citizens is a prime concern to the people of this State.

The Maryland Commission To Study Problems of Drug Addiction established by Governor Tawes suggested in its 1966 report that there be an attack on two fronts: (1) preventive services through education and control and (2) treatment for the addicts.

Man Alive, Adult Challenge and SAND are three programs currently fighting the problem. Man Alive is a private program treating 200 addicts by gradually weaning them from heroin through the use of methadone. Adult Challenge stresses cooperation between adults and teenagers to remove causes of need for drugs through guidance, therapy and counseling along with the use of methadone. SAND is an organization which attempts to counsel and assist addicts when they leave prison.

Dr. Emmett Davis has been successful in using methadone, a synthetic narcotic. This drug is relatively inexpensive and is effective in keeping addicts away from heroin. New York scientists have reported an 89% success rate with this technique.

An investigation into the success of the current programs with the idea of determining the feasibility of expanding such programs throughout the State in areas of high addiction and a detailed study of the methadone treatment can help direct us on a meaningful Statewide approach to this problem; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Governor is requested to have a committee investigate (1) the feasibility of establishing neighborhood corrective centers to combat the drug and narcotic problem throughout the State in areas of high addiction and (2) the use of methadone treatment on a Statewide level; and be it further

*Resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of Maryland.

Approved May 7, 1968.