

No. 64

(Senate Joint Resolution 12)

Senate Joint Resolution requesting the ~~Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates to appoint~~ SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE TO ESTABLISH a Commission to be known as the Human Practices Commission for the purpose of investigating and overseeing the treatment, care and the condition of patients in hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded.

WHEREAS, For a period of ten years or more A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME there have been recurring reports of inhumane treatment being rendered in various hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded; and

WHEREAS, Patients in hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded are human beings and thus entitled to dignified and humane treatment; and

WHEREAS, Primarily because of lack of sufficient funds or facilities there has been no continuing or concerted effort to alleviate the alleged existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, Without a continuing and concerted effort to improve the condition and circumstances of patients in hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded, no significant and lasting positive correctional procedure can be obtained; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it recommends that the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates* THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE IS REQUESTED TO establish a Commission to be known as the Humane Practices Commission for the purpose of investigating and overseeing the treatment, care and condition of patients in hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded. The Commission should consist of three members appointed by the Governor, SHALL INCLUDE THREE MEMBERS representative of voluntary citizens groups which shall include one group concerned with the mentally ill, one group concerned with the mentally retarded, and the third group concerned with handicapped persons, generally. The Commission shall also have as members two Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, and two Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further GENERALLY; AND BE IT FURTHER

*Resolved, That the Commission shall report on a regular basis to the Governor and the General Assembly as to its findings; and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of* AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

Approved April 28, 1970.