

No. 14

(House Joint Resolution 2)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Program to Control High Blood Pressure

FOR the purpose of recognizing that high blood pressure is a controllable major health problem in Maryland, urging the citizens of Maryland to have annual blood pressure checks, and supporting the efforts of the Statewide Steering Committee in developing programs to control high blood pressure.

WHEREAS, An estimated 360,000 Marylanders have high blood pressure, (many of them unknowingly); and

WHEREAS, High blood pressure is a significant underlying cause of 15,000 Maryland deaths annually, from heart disease, stroke, and kidney disease, and is a major cause of disability in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Only about ~~[[one-eighty]]~~ one-eighth of Marylanders having this disease are now receiving adequate therapy, despite the fact that both the knowledge and medications are available to effectively detect and control high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS, A National High Blood Pressure Education Program, cooperatively pursued by public and private organizations, has been established to reduce the disability and premature death resulting from high blood pressure by stimulating and encouraging its early detection and aggressive treatment through increased public and professional awareness and action; and

WHEREAS, A Statewide Steering Committee consisting of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, the Maryland Conference of Health officers, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Citizen's Advisory Council of the Maryland Comprehensive Health Planning Agency, and the American Heart Association-Maryland Affiliate, has been established to develop a primary high blood pressure control program for the State of Maryland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That high blood pressure be recognized as a major public health problem which can be controlled by available knowledge and medications. It is urged that the people