

No. 7

(House Joint Resolution 40)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Service Programs For Runaway Youth

FOR the purpose of requesting that the State Department of Human Resources evaluate certain services for runaways that are now being provided, determine the financial needs of these services, and consider including certain programs for runaways in the Comprehensive Annual Services Plan for Title XX of the Social Security Act.

WHEREAS, Estimates based on the latest research suggest that more than 10,000 Maryland youth (ages 10 - 17) ran away for one night or more during 1975; and

WHEREAS, Each of these young citizens faces many dangers in the street culture; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that the traditional social service agencies can offer little or no assistance to these Maryland youth; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that without intervening service programs these youth have a high risk of delinquency and subsequent involvement with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has four intervening runaway service programs which deal exclusively with runaway youth, which all together shelter and counsel 1,000 youth a year; and

WHEREAS, Currently available Federal funds expire in the next two years and plans for continuing the services should be formulated now; and

WHEREAS, Help for runaway young people addresses national goals for service under Title XX of the Social Security Act, both in terms of protection for children and prevention of inappropriate institutional care; and

WHEREAS, Runaways are specifically identified in the Title XX regulations as a class of persons eligible for protective services by virtue of their status; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly request the State Department of Human Resources to evaluate the services for runaways now