

## A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

A Pilot Program for the Use of Wood for Heat  
and Energy in Public Buildings

FOR the purpose of requesting the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, with the advice and assistance of the Department of General Services and of the Forest Service in the Department of Natural Resources, to initiate and conduct a pilot program at Eastern Shore Hospital Center for the use of available and waste wood products to supply heat and other energy.

WHEREAS, There are abundant and waste supplies of wood available in many portions of the State that could be utilized for providing heat and other forms of energy for public buildings.

The General Assembly is requesting the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, with the collaboration of the Department of General Services and of the Forest Service in the Department of Natural Resources, to initiate and conduct a pilot program to determine the economy and feasibility of such a study at Eastern Shore Hospital Center in Dorchester County.

There is an ample supply of extra and waste wood products in Dorchester and other nearby counties. Wood very likely could be substituted for heating oil in this institution and thereby save quantities of this vital and scarce resource.

Similar substitutions very likely also could be made in other public buildings throughout the State, saving the use and consumption of fossil fuels. Wood is available throughout the State as a byproduct of regular forest cutting programs and site preparation work. The wood now is left on the ground as wastage, so its use would not only be of economic benefit but also of assistance in clearing the land of these waste materials. There are such programs now operative in a number of states, including Tennessee, Alabama, and Vermont. In addition, there are municipal applications of this program in Burlington, Vermont, and in Binghamton, New York.

It has been estimated by the Forest Service that while the cost of such a conversion at Eastern Shore Hospital Center might be as much as one-half million dollars, the savings over a period of five or six years would pay off this initial investment. It would be necessary, of course, in the first instance, to provide funds to start the program.

The Forest Service, in the Department of Natural Resources, already has done research in these programs and is taking affirmative action in support of the feasibility