

Signed May 1, 1979.

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No. 21

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 58)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Transportation - Elderly Persons

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to direct the Office on Aging and the Department of Transportation to study the transportation problems of elderly persons and make certain recommendations for the improvement of transportation systems to meet the needs of older persons.

WHEREAS, There are more than 400,000 persons living in the State of Maryland who are 65 years of age and over; and

WHEREAS, Many of these older persons are living on low incomes and are increasingly unable to afford the inflation ridden costs of both public and private transportation; and

WHEREAS, Many elderly persons live in rural areas that are poorly served by either public or private transportation since the large distances and scattered population make transportation systems prohibitively expensive; and

WHEREAS, Even in urban areas where public transportation exists, many elderly persons, because of reduced mobility, find such transportation inaccessible, and for those who are frail and disabled, the design of the vehicles may make it impossible to utilize the service; and

WHEREAS, The lack of adequate transportation means that the elderly are unable to take advantage of community health, recreational, legal and social services which help the elderly retain independent, self-sufficient, and fulfilling lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is hereby requested to direct the Office on Aging and the Department of Transportation to study the transportation problems of all elderly persons and prepare and submit a report to the Legislative Council by December 30, 1979, using the findings of studies already underway or completed by the Department of State Planning, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Baltimore Regional Planning Council, and the several county governments, containing specific recommendations for cost-effective systems of dealing with the transportation problems of the elderly; and be it further