

WHEREAS, The VIAL OF LIFE program is essentially a medical information storage system in which vital medical facts about a person are contained in a vial which is stored in the refrigerator in a specific location; and

WHEREAS, In the case of a medical emergency at home, where a person may be found alone, unconscious, and physically unable to communicate -- the VIAL OF LIFE program will provide paramedics with lifesaving information about possible reasons for their condition. Rescue personnel will be trained to look for the information, and a label on the outside of the refrigerator will alert them to the fact that the vial is inside; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being used by paramedics at home and in the ambulance enroute to the hospital, the medical form can also be used by nurses and physicians in the emergency room; and

WHEREAS, This potentially lifesaving program has a functional flaw in it, in that ambulance and fire companies are reluctant to utilize it due to the many variations in materials and format. Presently, there are about 20 different programs in existence around the State; and

WHEREAS, The Central Maryland Health Systems Agency, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) has designed a new standard medical form which can be used by both new and existing programs and this form has been approved for use by the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Maryland State Ambulance and Rescue Association, and the Maryland State Fireman's Association; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That it would be in the best interest of both the citizens and rescue teams of Maryland for programs to use the approved standard materials and program format; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all counties in the State of Maryland be urged to participate in and adopt the standard VIAL OF LIFE materials and program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to all county executives, the Honorable Harry Hughes, Governor of Maryland, the Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Honorable James Clark, Jr., President of the Senate of the Maryland General Assembly.

Signed April 22, 1980.

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