

reflecting an increased cost in medical insurance and patients' bills; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, the General Assembly created the Health Claims Arbitration Office, requiring all alleged cases of professional liability to go to arbitration, rather than through the courts; and

WHEREAS, Government, industry, and the general public are concerned over the increases in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, These increasing costs make it difficult for new physicians to establish themselves in practice because of the cost of professional liability insurance; and

WHEREAS, The older physician who would like to reduce his workload and continue to make his expertise and knowledge available to the public and new physicians, cannot continue to practice because premiums may be higher than the income received; and

WHEREAS, Younger physicians migrate to areas where the costs of such professional liability insurance are lower; and

WHEREAS, Physicians are, in many cases, practicing defensive medicine increasing the total costs of health care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to appoint a Commission on Health Care Professional Liability Insurance to examine the problem in its entirety and make recommendations to the 1984 General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, That representatives from the House of Delegates, the Senate of Maryland, and representatives of the public, the insurance industry, health professions and other related groups be included as members of this Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Governor designate the chairman of the Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission be appointed by June 1, 1983 and provide its final report and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 1983; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the staff for the Commission be provided by the Department of Legislative Reference; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Harry Hughes, Governor of Maryland, the Honorable Melvin Steinberg, President of the Senate of Maryland, and the Honorable Benjamin Cardin, Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Signed May 10, 1983.

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