

undertook a workplace study of the costs associated with lost time at work due to arthritic disorders of workers, and conducted surveys to determine the direct and indirect hospital costs and prevalence of the arthritic population in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, There are urgent needs to continue on with this work to help the arthritic population in Maryland; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 5. COMMISSION ON ARTHRITIS AND RELATED DISEASES

13-501.

IN THIS SUBTITLE "COMMISSION" MEANS THE STATE COMMISSION ON ARTHRITIS AND RELATED DISEASES.

13-502.

THERE IS A STATE COMMISSION ON ARTHRITIS AND RELATED DISEASES.

13-503.

(A) (1) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 15 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

(2) OF THE 15 MEMBERS:

(I) 2 SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHYSICIANS AND ARTHRITIS HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AT THE STATE'S 2 MEDICAL SCHOOLS;

(II) 1 SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT;

(III) 1 SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION;

(IV) 1 SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE ON AGING;

(V) 1 SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED;

(VI) 3 SHALL BE MEMBERS OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION, THE MARYLAND LUPUS FOUNDATION, AND HOME HEALTH CARE INC.;

(VII) 2 SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVES FROM HOSPITALS OR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OR BOTH OUTSIDE OF THE MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS;