

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, Health care in Maryland is evolving in response to rising health care costs, changes in methods of health care provision, and initiatives toward health care cost containment; and

WHEREAS, It is unclear that the Health Resources Planning Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission are responding effectively to the changing needs of the State's health care system; and

WHEREAS, The hearing process for health care rate setting and for certificate of need applications, conducted by unpaid appointees to the Commissions, are too lengthy, involving unnecessary delays; and

WHEREAS, The certificate of need process may lack efficiency and effectiveness resulting in unnecessary costs and delays; and

WHEREAS, The public's interests are not well represented on the Commissions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the ~~Governor is requested to establish a Task Force on Health Care Regulation~~ Joint Committee on Health Care Cost Containment is requested to study the restructuring of the Health Resources Planning Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission with emphasis on the feasibility of full-time hearing officers, the proper role of the Health Resources Planning Commission in the new health care environment, and the use of a People's Counsel for both Commissions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That ~~the Task Force on Health Care Regulation be composed of:~~

~~(1) 3 members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and 3 members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate; and~~

~~(2) A representative of each of the following, appointed by the Governor:~~

~~(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;~~

~~(b) The Health Resources Planning Commission; and~~

~~(c) The Health Services Cost Review Commission; and~~

~~(3) 3 representatives from the health care industry, appointed by the Governor, including a representative from the Maryland Hospital Association and a representative from the Health Facilities Association of Maryland and a representative from the Maryland Association for Homecare; and~~

~~(4) 2 representatives from labor and business; and~~