

WHEREAS, Those services should include financial assistance for capital improvements to the homes of persons in need of long-term care, if the improvements would enable them to remain in the community; and

WHEREAS, Persons in need of long-term care have an overwhelming interest in the amount of choice and control they will have in their personal care services and should be accommodated in their desire for "independent living"; and

WHEREAS, Persons in need of long-term care should be able to choose accessible and affordable ~~home- or community-based~~ home-, community-, or assisted living-based long-term care as an option to institutional long-term care; and

WHEREAS, Maryland wants the ability to create a higher standard of financial eligibility for community-based long-term care under the Medical Assistance Program, thereby helping people remain in the community and avoiding the high costs of institutionalized care; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has a rich array of programs and services available to meet the needs of those persons who require long-term care in the State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the United States Health Care Financing Administration should be less restrictive in the conditions it sets on the receipt of federal funds by the State and should allow the State greater flexibility in deciding how to best utilize the federal funds it receives for the provision of long-term care; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to Bruce Vladek, Administrator, HCFA, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 314G-HHH, Washington, D.C., 20201; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Signed April 8, 1997.

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**Joint Resolution No. 7**

**(House Joint Resolution No. 22)**

A House Joint Resolution concerning

**Proposed Merger of Major Railroads Serving Maryland**

FOR the purpose of expressing the will of the General Assembly that the preservation of effective railroad competition in Maryland be ensured through the continuation of rail service by *at least* two Class I carriers and regional and shortline railroads and that rail employees, communities, and consumers in Maryland be protected from