

Article - InsuranceSection 6-103.1Annotated Code of Maryland(1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, Each year some 10,000 Americans sustain spinal cord injuries which typically result in some degree of paralysis; and

~~WHEREAS, The major cause of spinal cord injuries is motor vehicle crashes and 58 percent of the victims of these injuries are young people between 16 and 30 years of age; and~~

WHEREAS, It has long been generally assumed that most persons who sustain a spinal cord injury can be rehabilitated to some extent, but that damage to neural tissue is irreversible; and

WHEREAS, The conventional wisdom concerning the successful treatment of spinal cord injuries has changed dramatically in light of research in Great Britain, Sweden, and the United States which demonstrates that there are no fundamental biological barriers to repairing damaged spinal cord neural tissue and that the possibility of effective regenerative therapies for human neural cell injury is no longer speculation but a realistic goal; and

WHEREAS, There is more hope today than ever before that persons whose lives have been devastated by spinal cord injury can see their injuries reversed to some extent; and

WHEREAS, Most funding concerning spinal cord injury traditionally has been for rehabilitation research rather than research for basic neurological tissue regeneration with the objective of finding a cure for spinal cord injury; and

WHEREAS, Research concerning neurological tissue regeneration for spinal cord injury can be facilitated and enhanced by establishing an administrative unit at the State level with sufficient expertise, commitment, and funding to promote this type of research with a focus on finding a cure for spinal cord injury; and

~~WHEREAS, Because driving at an excessive speed is a common contributor to motor vehicle accidents, which in turn are the major cause of spinal cord injuries, it is appropriate that individuals who are convicted of speeding violations bear some of the cost of funding spinal cord injury cure research; now, therefore,~~

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