

WHEREAS, Maryland has an infection rate for hepatitis A ranging from 5 to 10 cases per 100,000 in the northern and western parts of the State to more than 20 cases per 100,000 in the Metropolitan Baltimore area; and

WHEREAS, In the United States most persons with hepatitis B acquire the infection as adolescents or adults; and

WHEREAS, There are vaccines available to protect individuals from hepatitis A and B; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to vaccinate individuals in the major risk groups have had limited success; and

WHEREAS, If the State could provide a low-cost vaccine program, more people could be vaccinated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is urged to seek funding to defray the cost of providing hepatitis A and B vaccines to the citizens of Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is urged to seek funding to defray administrative costs of a program to administer hepatitis A and B vaccines to the citizens of Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is urged to seek funding through federal programs offered by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, the Department of Health and Human Services, or other federal agencies to offset the costs of providing vaccines and administering a program to vaccinate the citizens of Maryland to prevent the spread of hepatitis A and B; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, on or before October 1, 2002, if the Secretary takes action under this joint resolution, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report the results of seeking federal funding for a hepatitis vaccination program to the Governor and, subject to the provisions of § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 201 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services 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 May 18, 2001.