

WHEREAS, The present situation in Maryland is that insurance companies and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program do not currently recognize a hospice as a separate category of provider; and

WHEREAS, Availability of hospice programs in Maryland depends in large measure on reimbursement of such services as home care and bereavement counseling to the patient's family; and

WHEREAS, This issue is of utmost importance to the citizens of Maryland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That a Hospice Reimbursement Study Commission be established consisting of 13 members; two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President; two members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker; nine members to be jointly appointed by the President and Speaker as follows: one from the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, one from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, one from the Maryland Hospital Association, one from the Maryland Nurses Association, one from the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, one from a nonprofit service plan, one from the Health Insurance Association of America, one from the nursing home industry, and two from the general public; and the chairman to be appointed jointly by the President and the Speaker from among the public members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That staff assistance and budget be provided by the Maryland Statewide Health Planning and Development Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission should determine what types of hospice care is now available in the State, what type of necessary services are not presently available, what type of services would be beneficial to the terminally ill and their families, and how the insurance industry and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program can be organized to provide these forms of coverage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission should make its report and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 1980.

Signed May 1, 1979.