

Benjamin L. Cardin, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Honorable Melvin A. Steinberg, President of the Senate of Maryland.

Signed May 21, 1985.

-----

No. 23

(House Joint Resolution No. 48)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Elderly Abuse and Neglect

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Governor establish a Task Force on Elderly Abuse and Neglect to examine and report on the various problems associated with this issue; providing for the membership, appointment, and staffing of the Task Force; providing that the Task Force report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of the Task Force on a certain date; and generally relating to establishing a Task Force on Elderly Abuse and Neglect.

WHEREAS, The condition of the elderly has become the focus of increased attention, and the number of elderly people has increased; and

WHEREAS, The structure of our society has placed more elderly people in situations in which abuse and neglect are more likely to occur; and

WHEREAS, More reliable information is needed concerning the abuse of elderly people since it appears that most cases of abuse occur in the home, often by a child who is the primary care giver; and

WHEREAS, It is unknown the actual extent of elderly abuse in the State since the State has no mandatory reporting laws and there exists no uniform definition of abuse; and

WHEREAS, In states having mandatory reporting laws, reports of abuse have skyrocketed; and

WHEREAS, Studies conducted by the federal government indicate that between 600,000 to 1 million elderly Americans have experienced abuse; and

WHEREAS, Some other studies indicate that 10 percent of the elderly population have been abused; and