

No. 32

{House Joint Resolution No. 44}

A House Joint Resolution concerning

## Destitute Persons

FOR the purpose of requesting the ~~Governor~~ President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to appoint a Task Force to study the problem of adults with no source of income who are ineligible for General Public Assistance so as to determine their number, their needs, and how the State can best provide for them; and to report to the General Assembly by a certain date.

WHEREAS, There are a large number of adults who are in need of public assistance, but who are ineligible because they are categorized as "employable"; and

WHEREAS, The majority of adults recently released from correction facilities or mental institutions, are handicapped and evicted by their families, or are transients; and

WHEREAS, These adults have little chance of gaining employment because of their lack of skills and inability to cope with finding unskilled employment; and

WHEREAS, Only five subdivisions in Maryland have General Public Assistance Employable Grants which provide temporary grants to the employable; and

WHEREAS, These General Public Assistance Employable Grants provide only a certain amount for a maximum of 2 months per year; and

WHEREAS, Most of these individuals have not worked in occupations which make them eligible for Employment Compensation; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 75 percent of these adults are also homeless and in need of emergency shelter; and

WHEREAS, There is no statewide program to provide shelter for homeless adults; and

WHEREAS, Priority for the limited amount of emergency shelters is given to families and children and victims of disaster, leaving virtually no government facilities available for these single adults; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the State, both economically and from a humanitarian standpoint, to give