

WHEREAS, Section 245 of Article 41 requires that any rule change adopted by a State agency that will increase expenditures beyond budgetary limitations must be specifically approved by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has proposed a change to the existing limitation of 20 days of hospitalization under the Medical Assistance Program whereby eligible neonatal, trauma and burn patients hospitalized in specialty referral centers would be exempt from the limitation; and

WHEREAS, This change to take effect January 1, 1982, would require an increase in expenditures of \$5,742,709 for fiscal year 1982, which funds are available within the existing level of the appropriation due to a reduction in the anticipated level of inpatient care; and

WHEREAS, This proposed rule change has been funded in the Governor's budget for fiscal year 1983, that is under consideration by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, This proposed rule change was approved by the Board of Public Works at the Board's meeting on February 24, 1982; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the proposed rule change for the Medical Assistance Program for the exemption from the 20-day limitation on hospitalization for certain categories of patients is approved.

Signed May 4, 1982.

No. 4

(House Joint Resolution No. 97)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Veteran's Administration Hospital Hospitals

FOR the purpose of urgently requesting the President and the Congress of the United States to immediately proceed with the funding and construction of a veterans' hospital in Baltimore City and urging the continued support of the Fort Howard Veterans' Hospital.

WHEREAS, The federal government has an obligation to provide modern, inexpensive, and readily accessible health and medical care facilities and treatment to those individuals who have served their country in the armed