

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1 of the First Extraordinary Session

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to authorize the Governor to do all that is necessary to implement Insure Tennessee substantially as described in TennCare Demonstration Amendment #25.

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2015, Governor Bill Haslam issued a Proclamation pursuant to his authority under Article III, Section 9, of the Tennessee Constitution, calling an extraordinary session of the One Hundred Ninth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee to meet and convene at the Capitol in Nashville at 4:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, on Monday, February 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the healthcare system in Tennessee is one of the most crucial challenges facing our leaders today and that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the wrong approach to responding to the challenges of our healthcare system, the One Hundred Ninth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee convened in extraordinary session to discuss Governor Haslam's Insure Tennessee proposal; and

WHEREAS, Insure Tennessee was the result of 21 months of negotiations between Governor Haslam and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the plan presented to the General Assembly has received verbal approval from HHS; and

WHEREAS, Insure Tennessee is a two-year pilot program that provides coverage to more than 200,000 low-income Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Insure Tennessee goes further than just providing coverage to low-income Tennesseans by also preparing these citizens for a transition to private market coverage by promoting participant engagement and personal responsibility and by incentivizing appropriate use of the healthcare system, which distinguishes Insure Tennessee from Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, Insure Tennessee is also different from Medicaid expansion because it creates financial incentives for providers to furnish high quality care in an efficient and appropriate manner so as to reduce costs and improve health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Insure Tennessee will not create any new taxes for Tennesseans or add any state cost to the budget, which is essential to the General Assembly's authorization of Insure Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Insure Tennessee is a unique, alternative approach that brings Tennessee taxpayer dollars back to this state to benefit Tennessee citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Governor is authorized to do all that is necessary and appropriate to implement Insure Tennessee substantially as described in TennCare Demonstration Amendment #25.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor is authorized to continue the implementation, administration and operation of Insure Tennessee under this authorization only if the program is financed by the federal government or financed by both federal funds and hospital assessment funds to cover any remaining state share as a result of a reduction in federal funding.