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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 214

Offered January 24, 2000

*Requesting a joint subcommittee to examine the central registry for child abuse and neglect.*

Patron—Whipple

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth places a high value on children and has taken a number of actions to ensure their health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, each local department of social services has a child protective services unit to receive complaints and investigate potential cases of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, if a child is determined to be in need, the local departments have developed a contingent of services to be offered to the child and his family to provide treatment in some cases and alleviate situations which could develop into more serious problems; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the state to have a methodology to ensure that persons who abuse or neglect children are not placed in situations where the abuse or neglect could continue and to develop a method whereby children who are abused or neglected are tracked in order to provide services; and

WHEREAS, it is for this reason that the state developed the central registry for the names of those persons who have been found to be abusers or neglectors in order to prevent them from working or volunteering in places where they would have contact with children or to provide consistent oversight to the persons whose names appear on the list; and

WHEREAS, regulations of the Department require that the central registry contain not only the name of the abuser or neglector but also the child's name as well; and

WHEREAS, these names remain on the list for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, some parents or guardians who are not the abuser or neglector have expressed concern about the name of their child being on the central registry, even with the safeguards that are built into the system to ensure confidentiality; and

WHEREAS, some parents or guardians feel that they should be consulted and should have to give their permission for their child's name to appear on the registry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be requested to examine the administration of the central registry for child abuse and neglect to determine, among other things deemed suitable, the usefulness of having the child's name on the central registry. The joint subcommittee shall be comprised in the following manner: three members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker; and two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$3,750.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Social Services. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2001 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

INTRODUCED

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