

2001 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 523

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled December 11, 2000

Continuing the study by the Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services on the services available for children with autism and pervasive developmental disorders.

Patron—Thomas

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, recent studies have indicated that the number of children with autism or pervasive developmental disorders is growing; and

WHEREAS, there is an acknowledged dearth of services and expertise in this area throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 Session of the General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 228 that directed certain state agencies to study the services available to children with autism and pervasive developmental problems, including the efficacy of the various treatment and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, because the study directives were so complex and broad and it was determined that the agencies had insufficient staff to adequately conduct such a study, the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities (VIDD) was contracted to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, the VIDD anticipates the delivery of its preliminary recommendations by June 2002; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services continue to study the services available for children with autism and pervasive developmental disorders. Technical assistance will continue to be provided to the Departments by the school divisions of Virginia and the Autism Program of Virginia.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Departments for this study, upon request. The Departments may seek the assistance of physicians, psychologists, and other experts in the relevant disorders.

The Departments shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2002 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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