

2001 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 581

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Encouraging the Departments of Health and Education to include an asthma assessment questionnaire as a part of the Health Information Form and Comprehensive Physical Exam Report.

Patron—Baskerville

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

WHEREAS, asthma is the leading serious chronic illness among children;
WHEREAS, in this country there are more than 17 million asthmatics and almost one-third of these are children under the age of 18; and
WHEREAS, the prevalence rate of pediatric asthma per thousand persons rose from 40.1 to 74.9 between 1982 and 1995, an increase of 86.8 percent; and
WHEREAS, most children have mild to moderate problems and treatment can be controlled in the home or physician's office, but for some the illness is the genesis of numerous visits to the hospital emergency room and multiple hospitalizations; and
WHEREAS, the estimated annual cost of treating asthma in those under 18 years of age is \$3.2 billion; and
WHEREAS, asthma accounts for 10 million lost school days annually and is the leading cause of absenteeism attributed to chronic conditions; and
WHEREAS, asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15 and is the first ranking chronic condition; and
WHEREAS, asthma accounts for one in six of all pediatric emergency visits in the U.S.; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly does hereby encourage the Departments of Health and Education to include an asthma assessment questionnaire, such as the Sample Questions for the Diagnosis and Initial Assessment of Asthma developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the Life Quality Test by the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), as part of the Health Information Form and Comprehensive Physical Examination Report as required by the Code of Virginia; and, be it
RESOLVED FURTHER That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor and the Secretary of Education and Secretary of Health and Human Resources in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

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