

2001 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 581

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
on January 25, 2001)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Baskerville)

Encouraging the Departments of Health and Education to develop a plan, in consultation with the Virginia Asthma Coalition and other stakeholders, that will increase the utilization of asthma assessment tools.

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 develop a plan in consultation with the Virginia Asthma Coalition and other stakeholders that will increase the utilization of asthma assessment tools, 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), and asthma action plans by school health personnel, parents and health care providers; 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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