

2001 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 648

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

Requesting the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Commerce and Trade to study ways to assist employers in providing child day care services.

Patrons—McEachin, Brink, Diamonstein, Hull, Moran, Spruill and Van Landingham

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Virginia Department of Social Services began to seek the support of employers for providing additional child day care services for those families leaving the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and the Virginia Child Day Care Fee System; and

WHEREAS, in October 2000, the Virginia Department of Social Services, in a report entitled Funding of Child Day Care for Low-Income Families, Senate Document No. 5 (2001), called for greater involvement of the business sector in providing child day care services for their employees; and

WHEREAS, the report by the Virginia Department of Social Services states that in order to reduce dependency on government funding for child day care services the Commonwealth may enhance "the role of the employer in either establishing and operating day care centers for employees' children or assisting employees with the costs of child day care or co-payments"; and

WHEREAS, employers in the Commonwealth need additional child day care services that emphasize school readiness for the children of their employees; and

WHEREAS, employers need child day care programs designed to provide Virginia's children with access to early care and education services delivered by skilled and knowledgeable professionals; and

WHEREAS, although there is a great deal of interest in and an ever-increasing need for child day care services and there are numerous task forces, commissions and programs that address the issue, there is no overall coordinated plan to provide guidance and continuity in order to assist employers in providing and ensuring the quality of child day care services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Commerce and Trade be requested to assist employers in providing child day care services. The study shall include (i) recommendations for enhancing the role of Virginia employers in establishing and operating child day care centers; (ii) recommendations for funding child day care services, including tax credits and public-private partnerships; (iii) an evaluation of the availability of quality child day care services that promote school readiness available to employers throughout the Commonwealth; and (iv) an implementation plan to achieve statewide child day care services that ensure school readiness in order to upgrade the quality of life for Virginia's families.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Commerce and Trade for this study, upon request.

The Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Commerce and Trade shall complete their work by November 15, 2001, and submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Commission on Early Childhood and Child Day Care Programs, 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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