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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 834

Offered January 29, 2001

Continuing the epidemiological survey of the elderly population in Virginia's long-term care facilities to identify the number of patients with suspected Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH) who could benefit from medical therapy.

Patron—Hargrove

Unanimous consent to introduce

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution (HJR) No. 45 (2000) requested the Division of Neurological Surgery at the Medical College of Virginia of Virginia Commonwealth University to conduct an epidemiological survey of the elderly population in Virginia's long-term care facilities to identify the number of patients with suspected Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH) who could benefit from medical therapy; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 Session of the General Assembly appropriated \$125,000 to offset a portion of the expenses associated with the project; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Neurological Surgery has made substantial progress on the project, including preparing job descriptions, conducting interviews, and developing a protocol for screening medical records; and

WHEREAS, the Division has also prepared an informational brochure for statewide distribution that will help educate patients and families about NPH; and

WHEREAS, plans are underway for the second stage of the project, which includes preparing to review medical records, communicating with directors of long term care facilities, and testing the screening protocol for identifying patients with probable NPH; and

WHEREAS, the Division continues to see large numbers of patients who are requesting information and screening for NPH as a result of the favorable publicity that was generated by the General Assembly's action on HJR 45; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Neurological Surgery has worked diligently to meet the October 1, 2001, report deadline cited in HJR 45, but additional time will be needed to complete the medical screenings, evaluate the results, and publish the findings and conclusions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the epidemiological survey of the elderly population in Virginia's long-term care facilities to identify the number of patients with suspected Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus who could benefit from medical therapy be continued. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Division of Neurological Surgery at the Medical College of Virginia of Virginia Commonwealth University, upon request.

The Division shall provide an interim report to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2001 and shall complete its work in time to submit its written findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2002. The Division shall submit a final report to the Governor and the 2003 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of 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

HJ834