

2003 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 325

Recognizing the problems affecting the provision of long-term care services to Virginia citizens.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 4, 2003

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 19, 2003

WHEREAS, the demand for nursing facility services will increase dramatically in the future with 60 percent of those who turn 75 needing long-term care sometime in their life; and

WHEREAS, 46 percent of those who enter a nursing facility will deplete their life savings in three months or less and will need assistance from the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Medicaid currently pays only about 85 percent of the allowable costs incurred to provide care for a nursing facility patient; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, nursing facilities in Virginia lost more than \$80 million in caring for Medicaid patients and this loss has been partially passed to the private pay patient who, in order to meet this shortfall, would have to pay an extra \$42 per day or \$15,000 per year, which amounts to a hidden tax on those persons already bearing the financial responsibility for their care; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 General Assembly imposed a \$25 million cut in Medicaid payment rates to nursing facilities; and

WHEREAS, to remain licensed, nursing facilities must meet national survey and certification standards enforced by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

WHEREAS, nursing salaries and professional liability costs continue to increase at rates much higher than general inflation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly recognize the problems affecting the provision of long-term care services to Virginia citizens; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Joint Commission on Health Care in order that the members of the Commission may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter during their deliberations.

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