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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 13, 2004

Requesting the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to establish a taskforce to facilitate communication and cooperation on blood-lead testing issues. Report.

Patrons—Lambert; Delegate: Ingram

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, over the years, the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead-Poisoning Prevention has sponsored measures to create partnerships and fostered cooperation between the agencies in the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources; and

WHEREAS, these partnerships have blossomed and have benefited the Commonwealth through efficiency and cost savings; and

WHEREAS, during the 2003 interim, some issues have arisen relating to who and where blood-lead testing should be performed and the funding streams that are appropriate for the various children who are tested; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services is the Commonwealth's premier scientific testing agency, conducting many kinds of tests for state agencies, such as the testing of the samples that are appropriately submitted pursuant to the Lead-Safe Virginia program relating to children at risk of lead poisoning; and

WHEREAS, the agencies that have traditionally worked together with the Joint Subcommittee are within the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services is part of the Department of General Services under the Secretariat of Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services performs testing services for many other programs within the agencies of the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources may have many common issues that could be approached in a collaborative way; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead-Poisoning Prevention wishes to enhance the collaboration between the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning the approach to blood-lead testing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources be requested to establish a taskforce to facilitate communication and cooperation on any blood-lead testing issues.

In examining the blood-lead testing issues, the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary shall evaluate relevant agency processes, forms, guidance letters, etc. that could be revised or standardized to (i) improve providers' understanding of when to submit samples to the Division for testing; (ii) avoid inappropriate funding of tests; and (iii) document for federal authorities the efficiency of the blood-lead testing component of Lead-Safe Virginia. The purpose of the task force shall be to establish a consistent approach to the processes and communications relating to blood-lead testing. The Division and the Secretary may view this collaboration as a pilot study to determine if other collaboration on processes, communications and forms would benefit all involved parties.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources for this study, upon request.

The Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall complete their meetings by November 30, 2004, and shall report to the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead-Poisoning Prevention or any appropriate successor in interest. The Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations (for publication as a document). The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2005 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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