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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 96

Offered January 11, 2006

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*Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the cost effectiveness of the Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families program. Report.*

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Patron—Hanger

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Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) was created in 1992 to establish a comprehensive system of services and funding through interagency planning and collaboration in order to better meet the needs of troubled and at-risk youths and their families; and

WHEREAS, concerns associated with the total general fund cost of the program (more than \$194 million in fiscal year 2001) and the average rate at which these costs have been increasing (approximately 10 percent per year) prompted the 2002 General Assembly to pass budget language directing the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to develop and implement a plan for improving services and containing costs in the treatment and care of children served through the CSA; and

WHEREAS, financial support provided by the Commonwealth and local governments for early intervention services for youths and their families and community services for troubled youths who have emotional or behavior problems continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, these program costs are often unpredictable and have dramatically increased each fiscal year making fiscal planning and budgeting a difficult process for local governments; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to establish a standard regarding the actual effectiveness of these programs and expenditures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the cost effectiveness of the Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families program. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 11 members that shall consist of six legislative members, three nonlegislative citizen members, and two ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and four members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; two nonlegislative citizen members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; one nonlegislative citizen member to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; and the Commissioner of Social Services or his designee and the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget or his designee shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall study the administration of the CSA by state and local governments, including projections of caseloads, service needs and costs, and quality of services provided, and make recommendations for improvement of program services and strategies for cost containment.

Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall be provided by Office of Comprehensive Services and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2006 interim and four meetings for the 2007 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$7,700 for each year without approval as set out in this resolution. Of this amount an estimated \$500 is allocated for speakers, materials, and other resources. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members

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59 or a majority of the House members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the  
60 recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the  
61 joint subcommittee.

62 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2006, and for  
63 the second year by November 30, 2007, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative  
64 Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first  
65 day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall  
66 state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a  
67 report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The  
68 executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of  
69 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be  
70 posted on the General Assembly's website.

71 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint  
72 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or  
73 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2006 or 2007  
74 interim.