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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 292**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 6, 2009)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Martin)

Directing the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the benefits to the Commonwealth of appropriating additional funds for cancer research. Report.

WHEREAS, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, men have a one in two chance of developing cancer in their lifetimes, and women have a one in three chance; and

WHEREAS, research advances in the last decade have provided new methods of detecting, treating, and preventing cancer, greatly increasing survival rates for many types of cancer; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is home to two National Cancer Institute-designated cancer research centers, Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center and the University of Virginia Cancer Center; and

WHEREAS, both the Massey Cancer Center and the University of Virginia Cancer Center rely on federal, state, and private funds to finance their fight against cancer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Commission on Health Care be directed to study the benefits to the Commonwealth of appropriating additional funds for cancer research.

In conducting its study, the Joint Commission on Health Care shall (i) examine the sufficiency of current funding sources for both the Massey Cancer Center and the University of Virginia Cancer Center; (ii) review the history and successes of cancer research at each center; (iii) explore benefits to the Commonwealth of expanding state support of both centers; and (iv) research additional funding opportunities for both centers.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Commission on Health Care for this study, upon request.

The Joint Commission on Health Care shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2009, and for the second year by November 30, 2010, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall state whether the Joint Commission on Health Care intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.