

## 2009 SESSION

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 318

*Continuing the Joint Subcommittee to Study Strategies and Models for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. Report.*

Agreed to by the Senate, February 28, 2009  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 28, 2009

WHEREAS, substance abuse imposes significant costs upon the Commonwealth; and  
WHEREAS, drug related deaths in the Commonwealth increased 27 percent from 2003 to 2007, and many of these deaths were caused by misused prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, this critical issue adversely affects the competitiveness of the Commonwealth's workforce; and

WHEREAS, during the 2008 interim, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission completed its study pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 683 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 395 from the 2007 Session of the General Assembly that examined the impact of substance abuse on state and local expenditures and potential investments in substance abuse services that could maximize savings to the Commonwealth and made numerous recommendations for mitigating the cost of substance abuse to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Strategies and Models for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was established pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 77 of the 2008 Session of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Strategies and Models for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment held four meetings during the 2008 interim to identify and characterize the nature of substance abuse in the Commonwealth, identify current state policies and programs providing substance abuse services, examine the cost of such policies and programs to the Commonwealth, and identify and examine prevention programs from other leading states in the field of substance abuse and prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Strategies and Models for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment identified subject areas and proposals that require further exploration and examination through cooperative action with stakeholders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee to Study Strategies and Models for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment be continued. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 11 members that shall consist of five legislative members, three nonlegislative citizen members, and three ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; three 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; one nonlegislative citizen member representing a private or nonprofit organization dedicated to substance abuse prevention or treatment programs to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and two nonlegislative citizen members representing private or nonprofit organizations dedicated to substance abuse prevention or treatment to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and the Director of the Department of Corrections or their designees shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The current members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be subject to reappointment. The current members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules shall continue to serve until replaced. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing authority. 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 continue to (i) identify and characterize the nature of substance abuse in the Commonwealth; (ii) identify current state policies and programs targeting substance abuse prevention and treatment; (iii) examine the cost of such policies and programs to the Commonwealth; (iv) identify and examine policies and prevention programs from other leading states in the field of substance abuse and prevention; and (v) benchmark the Commonwealth's substance abuse prevention and treatment programs and policies against those of the leading states. Additionally,

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the joint subcommittee shall establish work groups to explore issues, including the abuse of prescription medication, existing state policies and programs, and potential recommendations or solutions to address problems related to substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment services, use of evidence-based practices, and other pertinent topics.

Administrative staff support shall continue to 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 continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. 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 2009 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$6,200 without approval as set out in this resolution. 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 or a majority of the House members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2009, 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 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee 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 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 and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2009 interim.