

10101976D

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 94**

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

*Requesting the Virginia Department of Health Professions to study access to health care and health care professionals in Southwest Virginia. Report.*

Patron—Kilgore

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, a study of population health in Southwest Virginia by the Southwest Virginia Graduate Medical Education Consortium, a consortium that includes 13 counties and three cities, covering 6,000 square miles of land with a total population of approximately 400,000, found that rates of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, depression, obesity, and other health care problems were higher among the population of Southwest Virginia than for the population of Virginia as a whole, that 24 percent of the population was disabled as opposed to 18 percent of the total population of Virginia, and that 54 percent reported their health as fair or poor as compared to 15 percent for the total population of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Virginia Graduate Medical Education Consortium reported for Southwest Virginia there were 1,628 people per primary care physician, significantly higher than the rate for Virginia as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The Virginia Department of Health reports health professional shortages, mental health professional shortages, and dental health professional shortages in many areas of Southwest Virginia, and

WHEREAS, access to health care professionals is imperative for improved health; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Health Professions be requested to study access to health care and health care professionals in Southwest Virginia.

In conducting its study, the Department of Health Professions shall determine current access to health care and health care professionals in Southwest Virginia, the need for increased access and additional health care professionals in the region, and methods to increase the number of professionals and improve access to health care in the region.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department of Health Professions for this study, upon request.

The Department of Health Professions shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2010, and for the second year by November 30, 2011, and the Department of Health Professions shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document for each year. 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 no later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

HJ94