

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources to establish a work*
3 *group to study the current process for approval of residential psychiatric services. Report.*

4
5 Approved

[S 734]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. § 1.** *That the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources shall establish a work group*
8 *to consist of the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Superintendent of*
9 *Public Education, the Director of Medical Assistance Services, the Commissioner of Social Services, and*
10 *the Director of the Office of Children's Services, or their designees, and representatives of hospitals*
11 *providing services to children and adolescents, providers of residential psychiatric services for children*
12 *and adolescents, community services boards, and behavioral health advocacy groups to (i) review the*
13 *current process for approval of residential psychiatric placements and barriers to timely approval of*
14 *residential psychiatric services for adolescents and children, (ii) develop recommendations for improving*
15 *such process and ensuring timely approval of residential psychiatric placements and services for*
16 *adolescents and children, and (iii) develop recommendations for a process to expedite approval of*
17 *requests for residential psychiatric placements and services for adolescents and children who are*
18 *receiving acute inpatient psychiatric services. The Commissioner of Behavioral Health and*
19 *Developmental Services and the Director of Medical Assistance Services shall serve as co-chairs of the*
20 *work group. The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the*
21 *House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Joint Subcommittee to*
22 *Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century by December 1, 2020.*

ENROLLED

SB734ER