

1995 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 564

Offered January 23, 1995

Requesting the Department of Social Services to study the provision of certain services to low- to moderate-income persons which will allow them to remain in independent living facilities.

Patron—Almand

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, most of the older citizens in the Commonwealth desire to remain as independent and self-sufficient for as long as it is possible; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals are in the low- to moderate-income bracket and reside in congregate housing which provides subsidies to reduce the costs; and

WHEREAS, in many cases these individuals need only minimal assistance which will allow them to care for themselves and prevent their relocation to more expensive alternatives; and

WHEREAS, many of these congregate housing facilities have put together a system of care which, at best, is a hodgepodge because of the nature of the program and funding streams and the inconsistent availability of many services through the locality; and

WHEREAS, it is to the advantage of the Commonwealth and to her citizens to avoid placement in more expensive care, not only in terms of dollars but also in terms of the maintenance of dignity and self-sufficiency for the client; and

WHEREAS, some of the state and federal programs which currently provide some services to the elderly are in jeopardy of either having their funding reduced or eliminated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Social Services study and propose potential legislation which would identify the services which are necessary to maintain our older citizens in the least restrictive home setting and to identify a system of funding, including a sliding fee schedule, through which at-risk citizens can access these services.

The Department of Social Services shall provide staff support for the study. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department, upon request.

The Department of Social Services shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1996 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

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