

# 1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 316

*Requesting the Technical Advisory Panel of the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund, in cooperation with the Board of Medical Assistance Services and the Joint Commission on Health Care, to continue its efforts to convert the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund into a program to increase the number of Virginians with health insurance.*

Agreed to by the Senate, February 7, 1995  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 16, 1995

WHEREAS, approximately one million Virginians do not have health insurance, and another 500,000 Virginians are underinsured; and

WHEREAS, many uninsured Virginians are employed by small businesses; and

WHEREAS, forty-one percent of small businesses do not offer health insurance to their employees; and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 316 of the 1993 Session of the General Assembly requested the Technical Advisory Panel of the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund, in cooperation with the Board of Medical Assistance Services and the Joint Commission on Health Care, to develop a proposal to reconfigure the Trust Fund to support strategies which will increase the number of Virginians with health insurance; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 638 of the 1994 General Assembly authorized the Trust Fund to accept voluntary private donations for the purpose of subsidizing pilot health care projects for the uninsured; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Hospital Association supports a reconfiguration of the Trust Fund to provide a broader array of health services to uninsured Virginians rather than retrospective payments for charity care; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Panel has developed a proposal for a pilot program to expand access to health insurance for the working uninsured in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the pilot program would (i) provide an insurance subsidy, funded by voluntary donations to the Trust Fund, to uninsured employees of small businesses and their families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, (ii) use Medicaid reinsurance to lower the total premium cost to eligible workers and their families, (iii) offer comprehensive benefits based on Virginia's Essential Health Insurance Benefits Plan, and (iv) contain costs by using a managed-care model of service delivery; and

WHEREAS, the target date for implementing the pilot program is January 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Panel is in the process of developing additional pilot programs for the working uninsured in other regions of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Technical Advisory Panel of the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund, in cooperation with the Board of Medical Assistance Services and the Joint Commission on Health Care, be requested to continue its efforts to convert the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund into a program to increase the number of Virginians with health insurance.

The Technical Advisory Panel of the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Board of Medical Assistance Services, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and others as deemed necessary. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Technical Advisory Panel, upon request.

The Technical Advisory Panel shall provide the Joint Commission on Health Care by September 1, 1995, a progress report on its efforts to develop programs to increase the number of Virginians with health insurance. The joint commission shall include the report of the Technical Advisory Panel, together with its findings and recommendations for the reconfiguration of the Trust Fund to expand access to health insurance for the uninsured, to the Governor and the 1996 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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