

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 353

Directing the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the need for and efficacy of establishing a pre-hospital and inter-hospital triage and transport plan to ensure that trauma patients are being served in the closest appropriate trauma facility.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 7, 1995

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 22, 1995

WHEREAS, delivery of health care services to critically injured patients in a timely and proper manner is a matter of life or death; and

WHEREAS, medical research and literature confirm that getting a trauma patient to the nearest appropriate trauma facility capable of caring for that patient saves lives and health care costs and can mean a difference in patient outcome; and

WHEREAS, several states have developed plans and implemented systems to ensure that pre-hospital assessments (triage) are done and the patient is delivered to the nearest appropriate trauma center capable of caring for those identified medical needs; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that citizens of the Commonwealth are being transported by pre-hospital providers by ground and air transport to trauma centers which are not closest to the scene, and in some cases patients are taken out of state, when appropriate level trauma centers are available in closer proximity to the patient; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Commission on Health Care be directed to study the need and efficacy of establishing a pre-hospital and inter-hospital triage and transport plan to ensure that trauma patients are being served in the closest appropriate trauma facility. In conducting this study, the Joint Commission shall seek the input and expertise of representatives of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other interested parties.

The Joint Commission on Health Care shall provide staff support for the study. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the commission, upon request.

The Joint Commission on Health Care 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 the processing of legislative documents.

ENROLLED

SJ353ER