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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66

Offered January 22, 1996

Requesting the Department of Personnel and Training to continue to study the efficacy of establishing and administering a health care plan for all beneficiaries of the Virginia Retirement System and for retired state employees participating in optional retirement programs.

Patron—Colgan

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, there are approximately 72,000 retired public employees of the Commonwealth receiving benefits from the Virginia Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, many of those retirees are not covered under an employer-sponsored health insurance plan; and

WHEREAS, the cost of health care has risen steadily over the years; and

WHEREAS, for many, a group health insurance plan would make quality health care available and enhance the quality of their lives; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 Session of the General Assembly, pursuant to House Joint Resolution 474, requested the Department of Personnel and Training to study the efficacy of establishing and administering a health care plan for all beneficiaries of the Virginia Retirement System and for retired state employees participating in optional retirement programs; and

WHEREAS, due to the large quantity and complexity of the issues involved, another year of study is necessary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of Personnel and Training be requested to continue its study of the efficacy of establishing and administering a health care plan for all beneficiaries of the Virginia Retirement System and for retired state employees participating in optional retirement programs, the cost of which will be borne by such beneficiaries. In the course of its study, the Department shall examine (i) whether non-State employers offer health insurance coverage to retired employees, (ii) the types of health insurance coverage offered both prior to, and after, retirees attain age 65, (iii) the cost of health insurance coverage to both the employer and the participating retirees, and (iv) the number of retirees covered and not covered under an employer-sponsored health plan. The Joint Commission on Health Care shall assist the Department in the conduct of this study.

The Department of Personnel and Training, in conjunction with the Joint Commission on Health Care, shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before September 15, 1996, as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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