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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 93

Offered January 22, 1996

Establishing the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Comprehensive Services Act.

Patrons—Houck and Bolling; Delegates: Davies, Dickinson, Howell, May, Morgan, Murphy and Orrock

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, responding to an identified need to recommend changes to the service delivery system for severely emotionally and/or behaviorally disturbed children, the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Public Safety, and Education formed an interagency council in 1990 which concluded that state and local expenditures on residential care would continue to increase significantly unless major policy and program changes were instituted; and

WHEREAS, over the next two years a study was conducted and preliminary findings from five demonstration projects as well as recommendations for the restructuring of the service delivery system were submitted to the Governor and General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the council included state and local staff in the various child-serving agencies, state and local government officials, parents, judges, public and private providers, and advocates covering the spectrum of entities which would feel the impact of such a new system; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the resulting legislation is "to create a collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youths and their families" through early, least-restrictive, individually-designed, and family-oriented services that cut across all service agencies; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish this, various types of assistance were created to enable localities to develop such a program, including (i) creation of interagency teams at the local and state levels, (ii) development of a state trust fund to provide venture capital for localities to create and expand community-based services, (iii) consolidation of eight categorical funding streams into a pool which is distributed to localities based on a formula, and (iv) provision of technical assistance and training to localities; and

WHEREAS, localities received various assurances with regard to maintenance of state funding, payment for unanticipated costs, and a transition process for localities to evolve into the system; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 because the Comprehensive Services Act was still a relatively new approach and the State and localities were continuing to experience increased costs, the General Assembly approved HJR 56, directing the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Public Safety and Education to study and evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and adequacy of state funding; and

WHEREAS, the HJR 56 study made nineteen recommendations that identified where to invest additional resources and efforts to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of the Act; and

WHEREAS, statewide, many localities are still experiencing cost and service delivery difficulties, while some local programs have been very successful at controlling costs and achieving improved service levels, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Comprehensive Services Act is hereby established to review the successes and difficulties experienced by local governing bodies and Comprehensive Services Act management teams in the implementation of the Act, review the status of implementation of the recommendations of the HJR 56 study and recommend additional measures to improve the Act and its implementation.

The joint subcommittee shall be composed of seven members: four members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$ 4200.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1997 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

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