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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 278

Offered January 16, 1997

*Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the feasibility of implementing a statewide batterer intervention program.*

Patrons—Howell, Houck and Stolle; Delegates: Melvin, Puller and Watts

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, family violence is a serious problem which is addressed in a variety of ways, including the recent passage of legislation to strengthen the Commonwealth's arrest policy in cases involving family or household member assault and battery and for violations of protective orders; and

WHEREAS, studies show that intervention programs which hold batterers accountable for their actions are important elements in a comprehensive plan to address family violence; and

WHEREAS, nine states have established centralized oversight authority for batterer intervention programs; and

WHEREAS, establishment of a centralized oversight authority is necessary for effective implementation of standards of practice for programs providing court-ordered services throughout the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the feasibility of implementing a statewide batterer intervention program for the adoption, dissemination, and enforcement of formal, minimum standards of practice governing programs providing court-ordered treatment. The joint subcommittee shall be composed of seven members, including legislative members of the Commission on Family Violence Prevention and the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Commission as follows: three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; and four members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall develop recommendations for the structure, placement, staffing and budgetary needs and fee mechanism for the batterer intervention program which reflect a commitment to a cooperative and collaborative interagency approach to the problem of batterer rehabilitation.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$7,350.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Assistance shall be provided by the Commission on Family Violence Prevention and the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program. 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 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of 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.

INTRODUCED

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