

1998 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 548

Offered January 26, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-70 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 32.1-70.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the statewide cancer registry.

Patrons—Woods, Couric and Saslaw; Delegates: DeBoer and Hamilton

Referred to the Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 32.1-70 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-70. Information from hospitals, clinics, certain laboratories and physicians supplied to Commissioner; statewide cancer registry.

A. Each hospital, clinic and independent pathology laboratory shall make available to the Commissioner or his agents ~~abstracts of their records of information on~~ patients having malignant tumors or cancers. *A physician shall report information on patients having cancers unless he has determined that a hospital, clinic or in-state pathology laboratory has reported the information. This reporting requirement shall not apply to basal and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin.* Such ~~abstracts~~ information shall include the name, address, sex, race, diagnosis and any other pertinent identifying information regarding each such patient and shall include information regarding possible exposure to Agent Orange or other defoliants through their development, testing or use or through service in the Vietnam War. Each hospital, clinic, or independent pathology laboratory ~~may elect to~~, or physician shall provide ~~more extensive~~ other available clinical information as defined by the ~~Commissioner~~ Board of Health.

B. From such ~~abstracts~~ information the Commissioner shall establish and maintain a statewide cancer registry. The purpose of the statewide cancer registry shall include but not be limited to:

1. Determining means of improving the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients.

2. Determining the need for and means of providing better long-term, follow-up care of cancer patients.

2a. Conducting epidemiological analyses of the incidence, prevalence, survival, and risk factors associated with the occurrence of cancer in Virginia.

3. Collecting data to evaluate the possible carcinogenic effects of environmental hazards including exposure to dioxin and the defoliant, Agent Orange.

4. Improving rehabilitative programs for cancer patients.

5. Assisting in the training of hospital personnel.

6. Determining other needs of cancer patients and health personnel.

2. That § 32.1-70.1 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.

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