

1998 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 151

Offered January 26, 1998

Requesting the Department of Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to work together to address the employability needs of persons with serious mental illness.

Patrons—Gartlan, Martin and Wampler; Delegates: Christian, DeBoer, Hall and Thomas

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, a large number of Virginians each year seek help for a serious mental illness from a system of state facilities and community programs; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the mental health system is to provide consumers services in those settings that promote the highest quality of life for them and which complement natural family and community resources and supports that are adequate and continuing; and

WHEREAS, the provision of the least intrusive levels of support will increase opportunities for people to build upon natural abilities and supports and to take more control over their lives by making their own decisions about the services and supports they want and need; and

WHEREAS, new and effective programs, such as antipsychotic medications, intensive community treatment programs, and psychosocial rehabilitation programs have enabled numerous individuals to leave institutions and return to the community, family and jobs, and there is hope that many more will likewise benefit; and

WHEREAS, job skills and employment opportunities enable persons with serious mental illness to regain some independence and return to their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services work together to address the employability needs of persons with serious mental illness.

The Departments of Rehabilitative Services and of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and 1999 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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