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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 159

Senate Amendments in [] — February 12, 1998

Requesting the Secretaries of Administration, Commerce and Trade, and Health and Human Resources to study the feasibility of creating a residential alternatives capital fund to address the housing needs of persons with mental disabilities and substance abuse problems.

Patrons—Wampler; Delegates: Bloxom, Hall and Thomas

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive State Plan for 1998-2004, as developed by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the community services boards (CSB), indicates that over 11,700 individuals are on CSB waiting lists for residential services or are known by name as people who need housing; and

WHEREAS, there may be others who need housing who are not currently receiving CSB services or who have not attempted to access those services; and

WHEREAS, housing is critical to the current plans and goals to release from institutions those individuals who are identified as ready and willing to go to community programs, as well as to maintain those who are eligible for community programs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to adult care residences, Virginia has relied in large part on federal HUD resources to develop special-needs housing; and

WHEREAS, renewals of existing Section 8 (rental assistance) projects will consume most of HUD's budget over the next five years and the HUD 811 (housing for people with disabilities) program is dwindling; and

WHEREAS, Virginia needs to address these immediate housing shortage problems, as well as plan for housing thousands of people who currently need housing, are now living with aging caregivers, or will be discharged as state facilities are downsized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretaries of Administration, Commerce and Trade, and Health and Human Resources be requested to study the feasibility of creating a residential alternatives capital fund to address the housing needs of persons with mental disabilities and substance abuse problems.

The Secretaries shall complete their study and make their recommendations to the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees prior to the 1999 Session of the General Assembly. [The Secretaries shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1999 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.]

ENGROSSED

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