

# 1999 SESSION

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 683

Offered January 21, 1999

*Requesting the Secretary of Technology to develop guidelines for ensuring compatibility among telemedicine equipment operated by state agencies.*

Patrons—Brink, Baker, Davies, DeBoer, Diamonstein, Hall, Hamilton, Melvin and Morgan; Senators: Bolling, Gartlan, Lambert, Martin, Schrock, Walker and Woods

Referred to Committee on Science and Technology

WHEREAS, telemedicine is defined as the use of telecommunications technology to deliver health care services and health professions education to sites that are distant from the host site or educator; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine has increased access to health care, particularly for residents of remote areas requiring sub-specialty services; and

WHEREAS, a number of state agencies are now involved in telemedicine initiatives including the Department of Corrections, the Medical College of Virginia, the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services, and the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the technology for telemedicine services is changing rapidly; and

WHEREAS, the equipment purchased for telemedicine represents a significant investment; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine offers the opportunity for cooperation among a number of state agencies in serving the health care and health professions education needs of Virginians; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has recently appointed a Secretary of Technology; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates the Senate concurring, That the Secretary of Technology, in cooperation with affected state agencies, develop guidelines to ensure compatibility, to the extent feasible, among the telemedicine equipment purchased by state agencies involved in telemedicine; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That all agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary of Technology, upon request; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Secretary of Technology's findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the Joint Commission on Health Care prior to October 1, 1999 and shall be submitted to the Governor and the 2000 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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