

1999 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 683

Requesting the Secretary of Technology, in cooperation with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and other affected state agencies and entities, to develop guidelines for ensuring compatibility among telemedicine equipment operated by state agencies and other affected entities.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 7, 1999

Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 1999

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 subspecialty services; and

WHEREAS, a number of state agencies and teaching hospitals are now involved in telemedicine initiatives including, but not limited to, the Department of Corrections, the Eastern Virginia Medical School, the Medical College of Hampton Roads, 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 State 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 the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and other affected state agencies and entities, be requested to develop guidelines to ensure compatibility, to the extent feasible, among the telemedicine equipment purchased by state agencies and entities involved in telemedicine.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary of Technology, upon request.

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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