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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 709

Offered January 21, 1999

Requesting the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of General Services and the Commonwealth Competition Council to study and analyze the food delivery system for prisons and mental health hospitals and to examine alternatives to increase efficiency and lower the cost to the Commonwealth's taxpayers.

Patrons—Drake, Byron, Cantor, Dickinson, Jones, S.C., McDonnell, Putney, Sherwood, Spruill, Tata, Wardrup and Weatherholtz; Senator: Stosch

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

WHEREAS, as a result of increasing competition in the new global economy every private sector entity has been forced to examine every aspect of its operation to become more efficient and to remain competitive in the new world marketplace; and

WHEREAS, increased competition ensuring that goods and services are produced as efficiently as possible and are purchased from a low cost provider affects the way that governments operate, and especially the state governments; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is an acknowledged leader among the states in using a variety of techniques which promote more involvement of the private sector in providing goods and services that had traditionally been provided by government, as well as in setting up a competitive framework between state agencies and the private sector to determine the most efficient method of providing the goods; and

WHEREAS, this healthy competition and entrepreneurial spirit helps to increase efficiency and keep costs down; and

WHEREAS, in part because of the work of the Commonwealth Competition Council numerous functions of state government have been privatized and state agencies have been encouraged to be innovative in the way they provide other vital functions of government; and

WHEREAS, a significant part of the state budget is spent on food delivery for the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth needs to maintain its vigilance in examining potential opportunities to increase efficiency and lower the cost of providing governmental services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a task force be established to study the current food delivery system at the Departments of Corrections and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and to examine alternative systems that would increase efficiency and reduce costs.

The task force shall consist of eight members who shall be appointed as follows: the Director of the Department of Corrections; the Director of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; the Director of the Department of General Services; two members of the Commonwealth Competition Council appointed by the Chairman of the Council; and three citizen members, two appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. The task force shall elect a chairman at its first meeting who shall be either a citizen member or a member of the Commonwealth Competition Council.

The Commonwealth Competition Council shall provide staff support for the study. The Department of Corrections, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and the Department of General Services shall provide assistance to the task force, upon request.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$2,000.

The task force shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations 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.

INTRODUCED

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