

1999 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 1214

Offered January 21, 1999

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-19.1, relating to duties of the Commissioner regarding telemedicine.

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

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 32.1-19.1 as follows:

§ 32.1-19.1. Reporting of telemedicine initiatives.

The Commissioner shall annually report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the status of telemedicine initiatives by agencies of the Commonwealth. For the purposes of this section, telemedicine shall mean 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.

The report shall be issued by October 1 of each year and shall include, but not be limited to, (i) a summary of telemedicine initiatives by agencies of the Commonwealth; (ii) an analysis of the cost-effectiveness and medical efficacy of health services provided using telemedicine; (iii) recommendations regarding any improvements needed in current telemedicine initiatives; and (iv) identification of additional opportunities for use of telemedicine to improve access to quality health care and to health professions education for citizens of the Commonwealth.

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