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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 339

Offered January 14, 2009

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Directing the Joint Commission on Health Care to study ways to ensure that individuals with life-threatening conditions receive the care they need, regardless of resources. Report.

Patron—Barker

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, many working Virginians cannot afford health insurance but do not qualify for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, when such individuals are faced with a health crisis, it can be difficult to get health care providers to agree to necessary care that cannot be paid for; and

WHEREAS, in the current economic climate, these sorts of dilemmas are likely to increase; and

WHEREAS, solutions to this type of problem may well exist, but it is often hard to find them in the midst of a crisis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Commission on Health Care be directed to study ways to ensure that individuals with life-threatening conditions receive the care they need, regardless of resources.

In conducting its study, the Commission shall (i) identify existing resources to help those without private insurance who don't qualify for Medicaid in emergency situations and ways to publicize any such resources, (ii) determine approximately how many such cases occur in the Commonwealth each year, (iii) examine programs in other states to provide assistance in such situations, and (iv) recommend effective solutions for addressing this problem in the Commonwealth.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Commission by the Department of Health and the Department of Medical Assistance Services. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission for this study, upon request.

The Joint Commission on Health Care shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2009, and for the second year by November 30, 2010, and the Chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall state whether the Commission intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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