

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2017 SESSION

## CHAPTER 197

*An Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a work group to study barriers to treatment of substance-exposed infants in the Commonwealth.*

[H 2162]

Approved February 23, 2017

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1.** *§ 1. That the Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall convene a work group to study barriers to treatment of substance-exposed infants in the Commonwealth. Such work group shall include representatives of the Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Health and Social Services and such other stakeholders as the Secretary of Health and Human Resources may deem appropriate and shall (i) review current policies and practices governing the identification and treatment of substance-exposed infants in the Commonwealth; (ii) identify barriers to treatment of substance-exposed infants in the Commonwealth, including barriers related to identification and reporting of such infants, data collection, interagency coordination and collaboration, service planning, service availability, and funding; and (iii) develop legislative, budgetary, and policy recommendations for the elimination of barriers to treatment of substance-exposed infants in the Commonwealth. The Secretary shall report his findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2017.*

**2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.**