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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 279

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 10, 2017

Continuing the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the Twenty-First Century. Report.

Patrons—Deeds, Hanger and Howell; Delegates: Bell, Robert B., Ransone and Torian

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 47 (2014) established the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the Twenty-First Century to (i) review and coordinate with the work of the Governor's Task Force on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response; (ii) review the laws of the Commonwealth governing the provision of mental health services, including involuntary commitment of persons in need of mental health care; (iii) assess the systems of publicly funded mental health services, including emergency, forensic, and long-term mental health care and the services provided by local and regional jails and juvenile detention facilities; (iv) identify gaps in services and the types of facilities and services that will be needed to serve the needs of the Commonwealth in the twenty-first century; (v) examine and incorporate the objectives of House Joint Resolution 240 (1996) and House Joint Resolution 225 (1998) into its study; (vi) review and consider the report *The Behavioral Health Services Study Commission: A Study of Virginia's Publicly Funded Behavioral Health Services in the 21st Century*; and (vii) recommend statutory or regulatory changes needed to improve access to services, the quality of services, and outcomes for individuals in need of services; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the Twenty-First Century was established for a period of four years, with the work of the joint subcommittee scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, through the work of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the Twenty-First Century during the last three years, it has become evident that significant additional work is required to meet the stated objectives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the Twenty-First Century be continued. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 12 members that shall consist of seven members of the House of Delegates, of whom two shall be members of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions, two shall be members of the House Committee on Appropriations, and three shall be members at-large, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; and five members of the Senate, of whom two shall be members of the Senate Committee on Education and Health, two shall be members of the Senate Committee on Finance, and one shall be a member at-large, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The current members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be subject to reappointment. The current members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules shall continue to serve until replaced. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing authority. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall continue the work it has begun with regard to (a) reviewing the laws of the Commonwealth governing the provision of mental health services, including involuntary commitment of persons in need of mental health care; (b) assessing the systems and structure of publicly funded mental health services, including emergency, forensic, and long-term mental health care and the services provided by local and regional jails and juvenile detention facilities; (c) identifying gaps in services and the types of facilities and services that will be needed to serve the needs of the Commonwealth in the twenty-first century; and (iv) recommending statutory or regulatory changes needed to improve access to services, the quality of services, and outcomes for individuals in need of services.

Administrative staff support shall continue to be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall continue to be provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$77,360 for each year without approval as set out in

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59 this resolution. Of this amount, an estimated \$50,000 is allocated for speakers, materials, and other
60 resources. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization
61 of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of
62 the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

63 No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members
64 or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (1) vote against the
65 recommendation and (2) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the
66 joint subcommittee.

67 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2018, and for
68 the second year by November 30, 2019, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative
69 Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first
70 day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall
71 state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a
72 report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The
73 executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of
74 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be
75 posted on the General Assembly's website.

76 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
77 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or
78 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2018 or 2019
79 interims.