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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 636

House Amendments in [] — February 4, 1997

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the Air Medivac System in the Commonwealth.

Patrons—Orrock, Abbitt, Albo, May and Moore; Senators: Hawkins and Holland

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee Studying Certain Emergency Medical Services Training and Governance Issues, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 437 (1995) and continued pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 139 (1996), has considered the funding, staffing and training issues concerning the emergency medical services system in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is recognized for its excellent emergency medical services system; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding and essential component of the state's emergency medical services system is the air Medivac system, [~~composed of~~ consisting of specially designed rotor-wing helicopters operated by] public and private providers to provide emergency air medical evacuation services throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the joint subcommittee determined during its deliberations that certain policy considerations, administrative protocols, and funding exigencies may threaten service delivery and the continued viability of the air Medivac system; and

WHEREAS, high morale, good communications, reasonable compromise, and strong cooperation are vital ingredients for the maintenance of the quality and efficiency of Virginia's emergency medical services system; and

WHEREAS, although legislation has been enacted to address certain of the certification and training issues in emergency medical services, further study is warranted to evaluate the state's Medivac system to ensure the continuation of an excellent and efficient statewide emergency medical services system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the Air Medivac System in the Commonwealth. The joint subcommittee shall be composed of 9 legislative members as follows: 5 members of the House of Delegates, of whom three members shall be representative of the joint subcommittee established pursuant to HJR No. 139 (1996), and the House Committees on Health, Welfare and Institutions and on Appropriations to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and 4 members of the Senate, of whom three members shall be representative of the joint subcommittee established pursuant to HJR No. 139 (1996), and the Senate Committees on Education and Health and on Finance to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The joint subcommittee shall perform the following:

1. Review the administration and operation procedures of the public and private air Medivac providers;

2. Identify, compare, and evaluate the mission, operation, and funding of public and private Medivac programs;

3. Assess the availability of air medical evacuation services to citizens throughout the Commonwealth;

4. Determine the feasibility of expanding the public and private air Medivac system to provide services to underserved regions of the state, or in areas where the continuation of such services by private providers may be uncertain;

5. Determine the need for and ways to assist providers in providing more effective and cost-efficient services;

6. Evaluate the administrative protocols to facilitate better coordination and the determination of the need for air Medivac services;

7. Determine the need to improve or enhance the accountability of providers for the costs associated with the delivery of services;

8. Assess the need for statewide alternatives and options to ensure the continuation of air Medivac services throughout the Commonwealth;

9. Identify areas of service overlap and the impact on service delivery and health care costs; and

10. Consider such other related issues as the joint subcommittee may deem appropriate.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$6,750.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance

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60 shall be provided by the State Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Department of State
61 Police. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon
62 request.

63 The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations
64 to the Governor and the 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the
65 Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

66 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
67 Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the
68 study.