

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 223

Agreed to by the Senate, February 2, 1993.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 23, 1993.

Establishing a Standing Joint Subcommittee on Block Grants. Report.

WHEREAS, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant was first established by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and has been revised by various federal acts over the years; and

WHEREAS, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant supports a range of minority health initiatives in health and human services, the delivery of worksite health promotion information to small and large businesses, injury prevention initiatives, the development of a statewide public awareness campaign targeting specific behavioral risk factors, a family planning pilot project using Norplant, and a collaborative initiative to target at-risk youth and families; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth expects to be awarded approximately \$2,765,702 in federal funds to support these services pursuant to the 1993 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant Act was also established by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and has been revised by various federal acts over the years; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has affirmed its commitment to community action programs through the enactment of the Community Action Act 9§ 2.1-587 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Community Service Block Grant finances many activities designed to assist, support, operate and provide technical assistance to low-income communities and individuals, such as economic development in low-income communities; services for the elderly; educational support services; emergency food, shelter, and financial assistance; employment services; energy assistance; pre-release and post-release support services for ex-offenders; pre-default and post-default counseling, loan packaging and housing renovation activities, including safe drinking water and sanitary waste facilities; nutrition services; and transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth expects to be distributed approximately \$6,980,376 in federal funds to support these services pursuant to the 1993 Community Services Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, federal law requires, as a condition of receiving funds pursuant to the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant and the Community Services Block Grant, that at least one legislative public hearing be conducted "on the proposed use and distribution of funds to be provided"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That, in order to ensure the continued receipt of federal funds pursuant to the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, the Community Services Block Grant, or any other federal block grant program requiring legislative public hearings, there be hereby established the Standing Joint Subcommittee on Block Grants. The Standing Joint Subcommittee shall be continued, as herein established, for so long as federal law requires legislative hearings as a condition of any application for or receipt of any federal block grant moneys.

The Standing Joint Subcommittee on Block Grants shall consist of 13 members to be appointed as follows: five members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and eight members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

The standing joint subcommittee shall hold public hearings on any federal block grant requiring legislative public hearings. Insofar as possible, all such hearings shall be scheduled on the same day. If determined necessary and appropriate, the standing joint subcommittee may also report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly immediate following any annual public hearings. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall, upon request, assist the subcommittee in its work.

The indirect costs of this study are estimated to be \$3,464 annually; the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$2,340 annually.

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