

26106260D

HOUSE BILL NO. 652

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2001
(Proposed by the House Committee on Health and Human Services)

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Hayes)

A BILL to direct the Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and Department of Health to convene a work group to evaluate the Commonwealth's response to parental prenatal and postnatal substance use, the services available to address such substance use, and the effects of such substance use on newborns and children; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

11 1. § 1. The Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services,
12 and Department of Health shall convene a work group to evaluate the Commonwealth's response to
13 parental prenatal and postnatal substance use, the services available to address such substance use, and the
14 effects of such substance use on newborns and children. Such work group shall (i) review existing statutes,
15 regulations, agency guidance, and current practices regarding the response and provision of services to
16 parents using substances legally and illegally and children born affected by exposure to substances,
17 including the development and use of Plans of Safe Care under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and
18 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.), to determine whether changes in statute, regulation, or guidance
19 are necessary to meet the needs of families, emphasize preservation of the mother-infant dyad, and ensure
20 the safety of children; (ii) identify best practices for government agencies and service providers; (iii)
21 identify service gaps and make recommendations for addressing them; (iv) identify data gaps and make
22 recommendations for addressing them; (v) identify and recommend training policies and opportunities for
23 government agencies and service providers; and (vi) identify inconsistencies in the implementation of
24 toxicology or cord blood testing of a child or pregnant or postpartum woman and make recommendations to
25 address inconsistent testing. Members of the work group shall include (a) representatives from the
26 Department of Social Services; (b) representatives from local departments of social services; (c)
27 representatives from local and state public health agencies; (d) representatives from community service
28 boards and behavioral health authorities, including staff from the Infant and Toddler Connection of
29 Virginia; (e) one representative from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; (f) private health care
30 providers, including OB/GYNs of whom at least one must be an OB/GYN certified in addiction medicine; (g)
31 pediatricians and physicians board-certified in substance use disorder; (h) researchers that specialize in
32 maternal and child health and substance use harm reduction; (i) hospital emergency department staff; (j)
33 hospital social workers; (k) providers of medication-assisted substance use treatment; (l) doulas and
34 midwives; (m) representatives from private community-based family support organizations; (n) impacted
35 parents; (o) a representative from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; (p) a representative from
36 the Virginia Poverty Law Center; and (q) other relevant stakeholders. The work group shall submit a
37 written report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Education
38 and Health and Rehabilitation and Social Services and the House Committee on Health and Human
39 Services by December 1, 2026.