

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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

6 [H 652]
 7 Approved

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

9 **1. § 1.** *The Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services,*
 10 *and Department of Health shall convene a work group to evaluate the Commonwealth's response to*
 11 *parental prenatal and postnatal substance use, the services available to address such substance use, and the*
 12 *effects of such substance use on newborns and children. Such work group shall (i) review existing statutes,*
 13 *regulations, agency guidance, and current practices regarding the response and provision of services to*
 14 *parents using substances legally and illegally and children born affected by exposure to substances,*
 15 *including the development and use of Plans of Safe Care under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and*
 16 *Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.), to determine whether changes in statute, regulation, or guidance*
 17 *are necessary to meet the needs of families, emphasize preservation of the mother-infant dyad, and ensure*
 18 *the safety of children; (ii) identify best practices for government agencies and service providers; (iii)*
 19 *identify service gaps and make recommendations for addressing them; (iv) identify data gaps and make*
 20 *recommendations for addressing them; (v) identify and recommend training policies and opportunities for*
 21 *government agencies and service providers; and (vi) identify inconsistencies in the implementation of*
 22 *toxicology or cord blood testing of a child or pregnant or postpartum woman and make recommendations to*
 23 *address inconsistent testing. Members of the work group shall include (a) representatives from the*
 24 *Department of Social Services; (b) representatives from local departments of social services; (c)*
 25 *representatives from local and state public health agencies; (d) representatives from community service*
 26 *boards and behavioral health authorities, including staff from the Infant and Toddler Connection of*
 27 *Virginia; (e) one representative from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; (f) private health care*
 28 *providers, including OB/GYNs of whom at least one must be an OB/GYN certified in addiction medicine; (g)*
 29 *pediatricians and physicians board-certified in substance use disorder; (h) researchers that specialize in*
 30 *maternal and child health and substance use harm reduction; (i) hospital emergency department staff; (j)*
 31 *hospital social workers; (k) providers of medication-assisted substance use treatment; (l) doulas and*
 32 *midwives; (m) representatives from private community-based family support organizations; (n) impacted*
 33 *parents; (o) a representative from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; (p) a representative from*
 34 *the Virginia Poverty Law Center; and (q) other relevant stakeholders. The work group shall submit a*
 35 *written report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Education*
 36 *and Health and Rehabilitation and Social Services and the House Committee on Health and Human*
 37 *Services by December 1, 2026.*