

**REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES ON**

HUNGER IN THE COMMONWEALTH

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 46

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
1995**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

George Allen
Governor

Kay Coles James
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

February 8, 1995

TO: The Honorable George Allen

and

The General Assembly of Virginia

The report contained herein is pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 184, agreed to by the 1994 General Assembly.

This report constitutes the response of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, with the assistance of the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of Education, to study a cost effective, coordinated response to hunger in the Commonwealth.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Coles James", written over a horizontal line.

Kay Coles James
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Study Charge	1
Background	1
Study Objectives	1
Approach and Methodology	2
Organization of Report	2
II. CURRENT STATUS OF HUNGER-RELATED PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA	3
Extent of Hunger in Virginia	3
Existing Hunger-related Programs	5
Types of Programs	5
Recommendations and Issues Raised by Senate Document 13 ..	6
WIC	6
Food Stamps	6
Medicaid	7
Feeding Programs	7
III. STRATEGIES FOR COST EFFECTIVE, COORDINATED RESPONSE TO HUNGER	8
Economic and Labor Forecast for the State	8
Welfare Reform	8
Coordination	9
IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11
APPENDICES	14

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 184 "HUNGER STUDY"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The General Assembly has requested the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to study and report on the status of Hunger in the Commonwealth. As part of the study, the Secretary is to review the findings of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Hunger and Malnutrition in the Commonwealth (Senate Document 13, 1985) and report on the status of actions taken in response to that report.

Current Status

Even using indicators such as the number of people participating in food assistance programs and the number of people living below the federally established poverty level, it is still difficult to determine the exact extent of hunger in the Commonwealth today. After the 1985 report, Virginia made changes through legislation and policy. Among other changes, eligibility requirements for food stamps and Medicaid were eased, The Women and Infant Supplemental Care program (WIC) developed an out-reach program, and income guidelines for the program were adjusted to allow more women and children to be eligible for services. The food banks expanded and distributed increasing amounts of food. The programs expanded but so did the population and the number of people living in poverty. Despite increased numbers of citizens receiving assistance, there are still increasing demands on food assistance programs throughout the state.

Recommendations

Hunger is a problem that requires both short term and long term solutions. People who are hungry cannot wait until their job training is complete, or until their food stamp application is processed. Their hunger needs to be addressed immediately. The causes must also be addressed or the need for emergency assistance becomes chronic. Hunger cannot be treated in isolation.

Poverty is the primary cause of hunger. Creation of jobs and reform of the welfare system is necessary before declines in hunger can be realized.

Below are the recommendations of this study:

- Designate additional staff and space within the Department of Health to allow growth in the WIC program.
- Increase public awareness of existing programs through cooperative, informational relationships with and among Virginia localities, organizations, businesses and churches.
- Bring the administration of the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Program, and the Private School Lunch Program to Virginia. (These programs are currently administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in New Jersey.)
- Utilize the services of the Office of Volunteerism to better develop and coordinate the use of volunteers in programs statewide.

I. INTRODUCTION

Study Charge

Senate Joint Resolution No. 184 requests the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to study a cost effective, coordinated response to hunger in the Commonwealth. The resolution requires that the Secretary, among other things:

- Evaluate the findings of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Hunger and Malnutrition;
- Review the status of the recommendations of the joint subcommittee;
- Assess revisions to current programs and policies which may be necessary to meet the objectives of current welfare reform proposals;
- Evaluate the impact of the changing economic climate on government, business, private nonprofit and volunteer efforts to alleviate hunger; and
- Identify the potential for improved coordination of administrative policies and programs.

Background

Senate Document 13, Report of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Hunger and Malnutrition in the Commonwealth, 1985, reported on hunger and set forth legislative initiatives. The 1984 Virginia General Assembly requested the report because hunger problems which had been identified and addressed in the 1960s had once again increased in Virginia as well as nationwide.

Study Objectives

- Determine the extent of hunger in Virginia
- Identify existing programs targeted toward serving the hungry in Virginia as well as their funding levels, sources, and populations served
- Assess what progress has been made in Virginia since 1985 in diminishing hunger

- Determine what other opportunities exist for Virginia to address and diminish hunger
- Identify methods of enhancing and coordinating programs to maximize resources and serve hungry Virginians effectively and efficiently

Approach and Methodology

- Establishment of a Hunger Study Task Force consisting of members from state agencies and private organizations.
- Review of existing surveys, studies and reports to determine extent of hunger in Virginia today.
- Collection and analysis of additional information gathered by the Hunger Study Task Force.
- Comparison of current information to that available in the Joint Subcommittee Report.
- Review of programs and practices in other states.

Organization of Report

This report is organized into four sections.

- This section, the Introduction, focuses on the background and requirements of this study.
- The second section reports on the current status of hunger and hunger-related programs in the Commonwealth and also makes comparisons between current findings and those of the 1985 study.
- The third section is future oriented, looking at economic and labor forecasts and at responses to current and anticipated welfare reform initiatives.
- The fourth section reports the conclusions and recommendations.

II. CURRENT STATUS OF HUNGER-RELATED PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA

Extent of Hunger in Virginia

It is very difficult to determine the true extent of hunger in Virginia. Key indicators include:

- poverty levels (Poverty levels are based on the federal poverty index and updated annually in the Federal Register. The 1994 poverty level for a family of four is \$14,800);
- the number of people receiving food stamps;
- the number of clients of hunger-related programs like Meals on Wheels, Congregate Meals, Women and Infant Supplemental Care (WIC), or the School Lunch program; and
- the demand on food banks.

While hunger can be caused by a variety of problems (neglect, substance abuse, diminished mental capacity, problems with transportation or access to food, etc.), poverty is accepted as the primary cause of hunger and assessing poverty levels and the demand for hunger-related assistance throughout the state provides a fairly accurate picture of hunger in Virginia.

Poverty

- Virginia's population increased from 5,345,818 in 1980 to 6,187,358 in 1990 and is estimated at 6,491,000 in 1993.
- As of 1990, 611,611 Virginian's lived at or under 100% of the poverty level based solely on their money income.

Source: 1990 U.S. Census Data

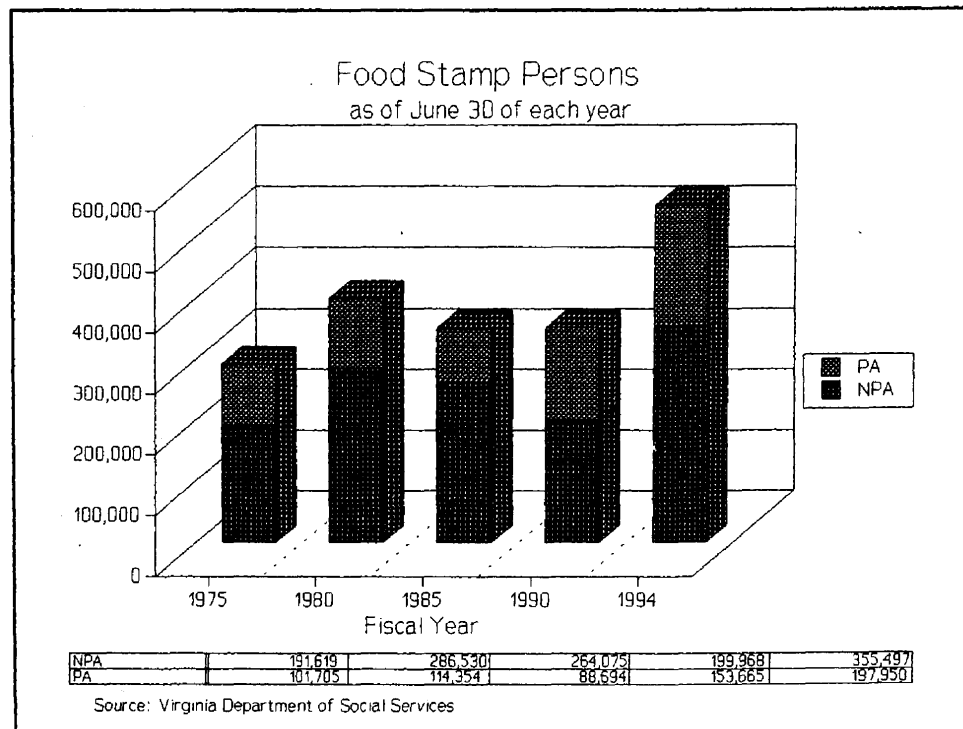
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

- In January 1994, 73,395 Virginia families, with a total of 192,018 individuals, received AFDC funds.
- About 25% of those living in poverty in Virginia in 1990 received AFDC.

Senate Document 13 showed a large gap between AFDC assistance received and poverty level. Today that gap still exists. An AFDC family of three can receive a maximum of \$354 per month in AFDC benefits, or \$4,248 a year. The poverty guideline for a family of three is \$12,320 a year. Adding in the maximum allowed in food stamps for that family (\$3,048 a year) they would still fall well below the poverty level at only \$7,296, not including noncash benefits they may receive.

Source: Virginia Client Information System (VACIS) extract data and Financial Management data systems VDSS

Food Stamps



- The graph above shows the increase in persons receiving food stamps since 1975. As of August 1994, 230,923 households with a total of 543,497 individuals, received food stamps. (The "PA" designation above, refers to individuals receiving public assistance in addition to food stamps, generally AFDC. "NPA" refers to food stamp clients who do not receive another form of public assistance.)

- As of 1992, among other states and the District of Columbia, Virginia ranked 21st (from low to high) in percentage of population receiving food stamps (7.76%). Today approximately 8.4% of Virginia's population receives food stamps.

Not all people seek public assistance. Reasons may include ignorance of what help is available, substance abuse or mental health problems, transportation problems, or shame and embarrassment at needing help (this is particularly true of the once self-sufficient elderly). For others assistance may be provided by friends, family or neighborhood resources. In some cases assistance may be needed but the person or family's income level is just high enough to make them ineligible to receive benefits.

In 1991 the Virginia Congress on Hunger sponsored a survey of the seven member food banks of the Virginia Federation of Food Banks.

The major findings were:

- One million emergency meals are served a month in Virginia.
- Children account for nearly half of emergency meals consumed.
- Over half of the emergency food providers are all-volunteer and nearly three fourths of the providers rely heavily on volunteers.

On a single day in 1993 food bank agency volunteers surveyed nearly 3,000 customers using food bank agencies statewide. The results of that survey showed:

- 60% were women.
- Almost one fourth of the respondents were elderly.
- One in five dependent on food kitchens were employed.
- Half of those surveyed received food stamps.

Existing Hunger-related Programs

Types of Programs

- The largest programs are federally funded such as Food Stamps, the School Lunch, Breakfast, and Summer Food

Service programs, and other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. These are offered statewide and participants must meet eligibility requirements. The program benefits are federally funded with state funds expended for staff and space.

- Other programs such as WIC and the Maternal and Child Health Care Programs are federally funded and target low-income women and children. These programs also utilize state funds to cover costs of staff and space. The programs are offered statewide through local health departments.
- Area agencies on aging programs such as home delivered meals and congregate meals, receive federal, state, and local funds, and are available statewide.
- Community action agencies, the Virginia Federation of Food Banks and local departments of social services may receive funding for programs from a variety of sources but their programs are community based and they often work through or in cooperation with each other or with community churches and other organizations.

Recommendations and Issues Raised by Senate Document 13

The 1985 study presented recommendations related to the WIC, Food Stamp, Medicaid, and USDA programs. The following provides a summary of the current status of these.

WIC

- In 1984, only 41% of an estimated 156,000 eligible women and children were participating in the WIC Program. As of May 1994, there are 128,554 participants out of an estimated 199,000 eligible (65%).
- In 1993 a WIC Outreach Program was launched using USDA funding.
- In 1984 Virginia ranked 32nd in the country for infant mortalities. Virginia's rate of infant mortality has remained relatively constant from 1987 through 1991. With the exception of 1977 and 1987, Virginia's rate has been higher than the national averages each year. Virginia ranks 40th among states (ranking from low to high).

Food Stamps

- Pell grants are no longer counted as income when looking at eligibility for food stamps.
- The state sales tax on food purchased with food stamps was removed.
- The 1985 study recommended that food stamps be used to purchase personal hygiene products such as soap and laundry detergent. This has not been approved as it is seen as contrary to the purpose of the Food Stamp Program as stated in the Food Stamp Act.
- Approximately 37.5% of food stamp applications are expedited.

Medicaid

- The study recommended that Medicaid applicants and recipients be allowed to retain \$1,500 in prepaid burial expenses. Current policy allows up to \$2,500.
- The study recommended changes to Virginia's contiguous property rules. AFDC now allows all property contiguous to the homesite to be excluded. Medicaid has a \$5,000 limit on contiguous property in excess of the house and lot for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid cases. Medicaid uses AFDC policy for families and children Medicaid cases.

Feeding Programs

- The study noted that the Summer Food Service program and the Child and Adult Care Food program were being administered outside of Virginia. Those programs and also the Private School portion of the National School Lunch program are still administered by USDA in New Jersey.

III. STRATEGIES FOR COST EFFECTIVE, COORDINATED RESPONSE TO HUNGER

Economic and Labor Forecast for the State

Available jobs and an economic environment that is favorable for the creation of additional jobs is an important factor in reducing poverty and, in doing so, reducing hunger. Providing education and training to individuals to equip them with the tools needed to compete in the marketplace requires knowledge of what industries or fields will be hiring.

- Virginia's economy grew at a faster pace than had been predicted in 1993. 1992 had a job creation rate of 0.7% or 19,500 jobs. 1993 had a job creation rate of 2.5% or 71,000 jobs.
- All major employment divisions except manufacturing and mining added jobs in 1993. Total government, Virginia's third largest employer, grew at 1.5% in spite of reductions in the federal civilian workforce.
- Unemployment in Virginia averaged 5.0 percent in 1993, down from an average of 6.4 percent in 1992. Overall job growth will continue in Virginia but at a slower pace as long range defense reductions may offset employment gains in other areas.

Virginia's economy is expected to steadily grow over the next two years. Jobs will be created, primarily in service and trade areas. Manufacturing jobs are expected to hold steady without substantial increases due to the loss of government procurement contracts.

Source: Virginia Economic Indicators December 1993, Virginia Employment Commission.

Welfare Reform

Virginia, like many other states, is attempting to find ways to overhaul its existing welfare system to remove disincentives and to achieve the goal of moving families and individuals from welfare dependency to self-sufficiency.

Current initiatives include among others:

- The Virginia Welfare Reform Demonstration Project (identifies unsubsidized jobs in the community and

promotes partnerships with businesses and local community);

- Child Support Enforcement and Insurance Pilot (tests the impact of guaranteed child support on the recidivism rate of selected AFDC families);
- Statewide modification to AFDC, Food Stamps, and Energy Assistance. (Allows savings up to \$5,000 without penalty to be used for education or purchase of residence)
- JOBS program (focuses on providing education, training and supportive services to help participants become workplace ready and able to obtain higher wage jobs)

Additional waivers have been, or are being submitted, to allow flexibility in the development of Workfare, a major welfare reform initiative. Components of Workfare may include current programs such as the Welfare Reform Demonstration Project and new initiatives such as the Virginia Independence Program. The Workfare plan will promote a strong work ethic, individual responsibility, and self-sufficiency.

Coordination

Coordination efforts between different hunger related programs vary widely. On the state agency level, for example, the Department of Health's WIC staff and the Department of Education's staff share information on nutrition and cognitive development in young children. In some locations the local departments of social services, the food banks and the community action agencies may work together. However, there are few opportunities for a cross-section of public and private organizations to meet and share information and ideas. There is a need to develop networks and informational relationships between localities and between public and private organizations. With assistance from the Office of Volunteerism, community coalitions can be formed that pull together the ideas and resources of the business community and citizens as well as state and local agencies.

Coordination efforts would also benefit from bringing the administration of the three USDA programs that are currently being administered in New Jersey to Virginia. These programs, the Child and Adult Care, Private School Lunch, and Summer Food Service programs are vital to many Virginians. The Summer Food Service program provides meals for over 10,000 children in Richmond alone.

Determination would need to be made as to which agency would house the programs. There is no legislative action required and administrative costs are federally funded. The Department of Social Services has made preliminary estimates on staffing requirements for these programs.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **WIC**

The WIC program is one of the most effective federal programs. It has been shown to have measurable benefits to both the State and the program's customers. For every \$1 spent on WIC, \$3 are saved in hospital bills. WIC reduces infant mortality, lowers the rate of anemia among participating children, improves growth of at risk infants, improves cognitive development, and more. It is an investment in the future of Virginia's children. Currently only about 65% of the women and children eligible are being served by the limited staff and resources in the local health departments where the program operates. Fourteen health districts do not have nutritionists available and there are even fewer trained nutritionists and resources available to help children with complex disabilities.

Creative solutions such as *best practices* and better clinic hours in addition to reallocated staff and resources are needed to allow the program to use available federal funds and to meet the increased need for services.

Recommendation: Designate additional staff and resources within the Department of Health to allow growth in the WIC Program.

- **Public Awareness**

One of the reasons that people do not get help when they are hungry, is that they do not know what help is available or how to access it. Existing information distribution systems need to be identified and coordinated. For example, the Department of Health has brochures with health information and Hotline numbers listed. Information on hunger and nutrition programs could be included in the information the department provides both in the brochures and over the hotline. Schools, churches, employers, and the medical community are additional sources and distributors of information.

The Virginia Office of Volunteerism offers assistance in building community coalitions. The services of this office should be utilized to identify existing networks and to develop cooperative relationships between public and private organizations and programs.

Recommendation: Increase public awareness of existing programs through cooperative informational and operational relationships between localities, businesses, organizations and churches.

- **Administration of USDA programs**

The Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and The Private School Food programs are United States Department of Agriculture programs which are operating in Virginia but are currently administered in New Jersey. Virginia is the only state or territory that does not administer these programs. Bringing the program administration into Virginia would facilitate coordination with other programs and bring the federal administrative funds to the agency which is selected to administer those programs.

Recommendation: Bring the administration of the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Program, and the Private School Lunch Program to Virginia.

- **Volunteers**

Volunteers are used extensively in many programs. If their functions had to be carried out by paid staff, many programs would have to stop. The food banks distribute food to over 3,000 member agencies in Virginia. Many of these are church pantries and soup kitchens, run almost entirely by volunteers.

While used extensively in the private sector, volunteers are generally an under-used resource in the public sector. The Virginia Office of Volunteerism should be better utilized to assist in developing volunteer programs statewide. The office provides training and assistance on most topics related to starting and running a volunteer program or building an organization's capacity to mobilize volunteers.

Recommendations: Utilize the services of the Office of Volunteerism to better develop and coordinate the use of volunteers statewide.

APPENDICES

Appendix A Descriptions of Major Food Assistance Programs

Appendix B Hunger Study Task Force Members

Appendix C Senate Joint Resolution 184

Descriptions of Major Food Assistance Programs

- **Food Stamp Program** The Food Stamp Program is the nation's largest food program, available to all families and individuals with gross income below 130% of the federal poverty level and net income below 100% of the poverty level. Its purpose, as stated in the Food Stamp Act is "to alleviate hunger and malnutrition...". This is a statewide program. Benefits are 100% federally funded as are 50% of the administrative costs.
- **The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** The WIC Program improves the health of Virginians by providing them nutritious foods at vital times in their lives -- during and after pregnancy, infancy and early childhood. Through its nutrition education component, WIC empowers participants to continue to live healthy lives after leaving the program. The program is funded entirely by the USDA. Pregnant, postpartum and breast feeding women, infants, and children under age five who have a nutritional need, are eligible for WIC services provided that they live at or below 185% of the poverty level. Services are offered statewide through local health departments and satellite clinics.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** The purpose of this program is to provide food to low income households, supplementing other food assistance programs and purchased foods. TEFAP foods are offered to local social service agencies or substitute agencies for quarterly mass distribution to eligible households. Foods are also made available to food banks for distribution through their member agencies as needed. The program began in 1981 to reduce the level of government-held surplus dairy commodities. The program has changed to include allocation of funding to purchase food for distribution through the TEFAP networks. This program is administered by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- **USDA Donated Food (Commodities) Program** Administered by the State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, this program provides nutritional and financial assistance to children, homeless people, and other financially needy persons. Foods are donated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to eligible schools, institutions, summer camps, summer feeding programs, and soup kitchens. Acquisition of these foods by USDA also provides marketing assistance to agricultural producers. All children in participating school and summer programs and financially needy persons in other outlets are eligible. USDA determines the category of the recipient agency eligible to receive the various food items made available. Participating agencies must comply with federal regulations regarding use of and accountability for foods. Foods and 30% of the administrative costs are federally funded with 70% of the administrative cost funded by the State.
- **National School Lunch Program** All State schools are eligible to participate in this program. Meal benefits are determined on a sliding scale for students and participating schools are reimbursed for eligible meals served based on categorical counts. In Virginia, twenty-six public high schools do not participate. The support of school administration and teachers is essential to the successful delivery of meals to students. This program is administrated by the Department of Education.
- **School Breakfast Program** This is another program administered by the Department of Education. Its purpose is to support nutritious meals for children to promote and safeguard their health and well being in recognition of the relationship between nutrition, health, and child development. This federally funded program, or a like program, must be offered in public schools which have 25% or more free and reduced-price eligible students. Meal benefits are determined on a sliding scale. Reimbursement rates are established annually. Like the Lunch Program, school administrative and teacher support is essential to its success.
- **Special Milk Program** This is a small program administered by the Department of Education. The program encourages the consumption of fluid milk where children do not have access to the School Breakfast or Lunch Programs. Any school can

participate, but few do because of the requirement that the participating school not offer the federal School Breakfast or Lunch Program. Like the breakfast and lunch programs, reimbursement rates are established annually.

- **Congregate Nutrition Services** Aimed primarily at persons 60 years and older, who are mobile and not homebound, this program provides nutritionally balanced meals and educational information on nutrition to older persons at congregate nutrition sites. This statewide program provides a climate for socialization/recreation and opportunities to alleviate isolation and loneliness. Also included in the program are the spouses of participants. At the option of the locality, services may also be available to persons with a disability who are under age 60 (in certain circumstances), and to volunteers who provide services during the meal. Funding is through the federal Older American Act, state general Funds (as matching funds), and local funds.
- **Home-Delivered Nutrition Services** This program is targeted to persons 60 and over who are homebound, and their spouses, regardless of age. Priority is given to those in the greatest economic or social need, with special attention to low-income minorities. The program is offered through area agencies on aging statewide; however, many agencies have waiting lists. Funding for this program is through the federal Older Americans Act, State matching funds, State General Funds specifically for home delivered meals, and local funds.
- **Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Nutrition Services** Nutrition education and counseling are provided to women of child bearing age, children up to the age of 21, and children with special health care needs. This program is administered by the Department of Health with funding coming from federal Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds and State cooperative budget funds. The maternal and child health nutritionists are located in clinics around the State and coordinate with head start centers and many groups promoting good nutrition for women and children. These nutritionists are located in clinics at the Medical College of Virginia, the University of Virginia Hospital, and several other clinics around the State.
- **Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Private School Lunch Program** These three programs are grouped together because they are all administered by the USDA through its New Jersey office. The Private School Lunch Program is part of the National School Lunch Program. There are 53 private schools in Virginia in this program, including St. Joseph's Villa, The Virginia Home for Boys, Fork Union Military Academy, and Elk Hill Farm. The Child and Adult Care Program is implemented through many day care centers, institutions and facilities statewide, providing assistance in meeting the nutritional needs of participants according to USDA established categories. The Summer Food Service Program is a very important and under-used program that attempts to reach the same children who participate in the School Lunch Program. USDA contracts with a variety of different organizations statewide making it difficult to coordinate. For example, in some areas, the local school system may run the program; in others a community action agency or individual centers may use the program. In the city of Richmond, the Department of Parks and Recreation coordinates the program at 105 locations for about 10,000 children.
- **The Virginia Federation of Food Banks** The federation is part of the Second Harvest national network of food banks. Second Harvest is the country's largest private food assistance effort with 185 member food banks. There are seven member food banks in the Virginia federation with over 3,000 member agencies reaching most areas of the state. Funding and food for the food banks comes from donations from individuals, corporations, the food industry, foundations, and the federal government through the USDA. The food banks are the biggest users of the state's Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program (NAP). Much of the work of the food banks is performed by volunteers. The member agencies include churches, civic organizations, community action agency programs, and many others.

Senate Joint Resolution 184
"Hunger Study"

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**1994 SESSION
ENGROSSED**

1 LD2303753

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 184

Senate Amendments in [] — February 8, 1994

3
4 *Requesting the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, with the assistance of the*
5 *Secretary of Finance and Secretary of Education, to study a cost-effective, coordinated*
6 *response to hunger in the Commonwealth.*

7
8 Patrons—Walker, Holland, C.A., Holland, E.M., Lambert and Quayle; Delegates: Abbitt,
9 Cooper, Darner, Giesen, Jones, D.C., Robinson and Way

10
11 Referred to the Committee on Rules

12
13 WHEREAS, hunger impacts one in eight families in the Commonwealth; and
14 WHEREAS, Virginia's hungry are represented by all ages, sexes and races; and
15 WHEREAS, hunger among children continues to increase; and
16 WHEREAS, hunger creates major health problems, resulting in rising costs in prenatal,
17 post partum, early childhood and elderly health care; and
18 WHEREAS, hunger is an expense to be ill afforded, in terms of lost potential, missed
19 education, and work potential; and
20 WHEREAS, alleviating hunger would enhance economic development efforts by
21 providing an enlarged and healthier work force; and
22 WHEREAS, hunger is curable and preventable in Virginia; and
23 WHEREAS, the existing offices and departments of Aging, Agriculture, Health,
24 Education, Transportation, Recreation and Social Services can and do provide services to
25 those in need, and
26 WHEREAS, ten years have passed since the Joint Subcommittee Studying Hunger and
27 Malnutrition in the Commonwealth pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 50 (1984)
28 examined the extent, effect, and cost of hunger in Virginia and proposed 13 multi-faceted
29 legislative initiatives to address the problem; and
30 WHEREAS, no follow-up study has been conducted to determine and evaluate the
31 implementation of these initiatives and their effectiveness in diminishing hunger in Virginia;
32 and
33 WHEREAS, further evaluation of the problem may be timely in light of the changing
34 economic climate and impending welfare reform proposals by the Commission to Stimulate
35 Personal Initiative to Overcome Poverty; now, therefore, be it
36 RESOLVED, by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of
37 Health and Human Resources be requested, with the assistance of the Secretary of Finance
38 and the Secretary of Education to study a cost effective, coordinated response to hunger in
39 the Commonwealth.
40 The Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall, among other items, (i) evaluate
41 the findings of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Hunger and Malnutrition to determine their
42 current applicability; (ii) review the status of the recommendations of the joint
43 subcommittee to determine which proposals have been implemented and their effectiveness
44 in diminishing hunger in Virginia; (iii) assess revisions to current programs and policies
45 which may be necessary to meet the objectives of current welfare program reform
46 proposals; (iv) evaluate the impact of the changing economic climate on government,
47 business, private, nonprofit and volunteer efforts to alleviate hunger; and (v) identify the
48 potential for improved coordination of administrative policies and programs.
49 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary of Health
50 and Human Resources, upon request.
51 The Secretary shall complete his work in time to submit [his her] findings and
52 recommendations to the Governor and the 1995 Session of the General Assembly as
53 provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing
54 legislative documents.