



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

BRENDA L. POGGE
POST OFFICE BOX 196
NORGE, VIRGINIA 23127

NINETY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
EDUCATION (VICE CHAIRMAN)
FINANCE
HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

November 11, 2016

Division of Legislative Automated Systems (DLAS)
General Assembly Building, Suite 660
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Attn: Legislative Documents and Reports Processing

RE: Virginia Disability Commission Report

Members of the General Assembly:

The Virginia Disability Commission met on October 18, 2016, to finalize its legislative and budgetary recommendations for the 2017 Session of the General Assembly. Section 30-232 of the Code of Virginia provides as follows:

The Virginia Disability Commission (the Commission) is established in the legislative branch of state government. The purpose of the Commission is to identify and recommend legislative priorities and policies for adoption or examination by the General Assembly in order to provide ongoing support in developing and reviewing services and funding related to Virginians with physical and sensory disabilities. The Commission shall submit its recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor by October 1 of each year.

After placing an emphasis on gathering information and suggestions from stakeholders and relevant state agencies during the 2016 interim, I am writing to inform you, pursuant to Section 30-232 of the Code of Virginia, that the Commission adopted the following recommendations:

1. Propose a budget amendment to Item 306.PPPP that creates an exception to the prohibition of overtime pay for Medicaid-reimbursed consumer-directed personal assistance services, respite, and companion services.
2. Propose a budget amendment to Item 310.M. to establish an Interagency Implementation Team to implement a statewide program for delivering comprehensive brain injury services in the Commonwealth.

3. Introduce a bill that directs the Department of Education and other necessary state agencies to develop a system and guidelines to test children who are deaf or hard of hearing at an early age for language acquisition and literacy in American Sign Language and English and to make appropriate recommendations to assist children who fall below established milestones.
4. Send a letter to DARS, requesting that it begin the process of shifting funding for long-term employment support services from segregated, sheltered employment settings to integrated community-based employment opportunities. The letter will request that DARS report to the Commission on its progress during the latter portion of the 2017 interim.
5. Send a letter to DBHDS, requesting that it develop a method to efficiently gather data that will better identify all individuals receiving employment support services, the specific type and amount of services being provided to each individual, the duration of such services, and the employment outcomes of individuals receiving such services. The letter will request that DBHDS report to the Commission on its progress during the latter portion of the 2017 interim.
6. Adopt as part of the Commission's 2017 work plan a priority to identify and analyze methods that can be used to increase the Commonwealth's employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Delegate Brenda L. Pogge

Chairwoman, Disability Commission
P.O. Box 196
Norge, Virginia 23127
(757) 223-9690
DelBPogge@house.virginia.gov