



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission  
Suite 1100, General Assembly Building, Capitol Square  
Richmond, Virginia 23219*

*Philip A. Leone  
Director*

*(804) 786-1258*

## **MINUTES**

### **Topic Selection Work Session**

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission  
December 8, 2003, 9:30 a.m.

JLARC Conference Room

#### Attending:

JLARC MEMBERS: Delegate Lacey E. Putney (Vice-Chairman, Presiding), Senator Charles J. Colgan, Delegate Johnny S. Joannou, Delegate Dwight C. Jones, Delegate Harry J. Parrish, Senator Walter J. Stosch, Delegate Leo C. Wardrup, Jr., Senator Kevin G. Miller (Chairman) arrived at the end of the meeting.

JLARC Staff: Philip Leone, Kirk Jonas, Glen Tittermary, Bob Rotz, Greg Rest, Walt Smiley.

Others: Mr. Rob James of the VEA, Mr. Fred Norman, IT Consultant, Others.

Delegate Putney recognized Mr. Philip Leone, JLARC Director, who reviewed the agenda (Enclosure 1) and materials in the topic selection packet. First he discussed Secretary Jane H. Woods' (Health and Human Resources) letter asking that JLARC study the use and financing of trauma centers in Virginia hospitals (Enclosure 2), Mr. Leone also noted supporting correspondence from Senator Kenneth W. Stolle (Enclosure 3), and Katherine M. Webb of the Virginia Hospital and Health Care Association (Enclosure 4). Delegate Wardrup moved that the study of trauma centers be handled through the legislative process as a joint resolution. The motion was seconded (Colgan) and approved unanimously.

**MINUTES**

Topic Selection Work Session

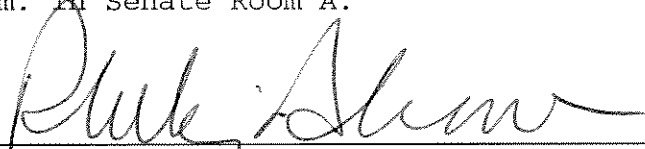
December 8, 2003

Page Two

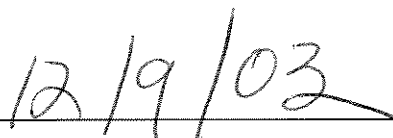
Delegate Putney also brought up Delegate Cox's request for further review of certain issues related to the HJR 604 acclimation study (Enclosure 5). Kirk Jonas explained that recently-available five percent Census sample data would permit further analysis using staff already assigned to the project. Delegate Wardrup asked that staff focus on the most cost effective areas of review. Delegate Putney asked if members agreed with the review and, ascertaining their assent, announced that "without objection, the staff will continue to review these areas."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to reconvene at 10:00 a.m. in Senate Room A.

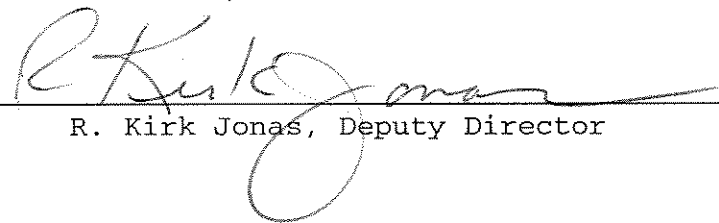
Approved by:

  
Philip A. Leone, Director

Date:



Prepared by:

  
R. Kirk Jonas, Deputy Director

Enclosure 1



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission*  
*Suite 1100, General Assembly Building, Capitol Square*  
*Richmond, Virginia 23219*

*Philip A. Leone*  
*Director*

(804) 786-1258

## AGENDA

### TOPIC SELECTION WORK SESSION

Monday, December 8, 2003  
JLARC Conference Room, 11th Floor  
General Assembly Building

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Review of New Topics for Possible Study

- Hospital Trauma Centers
- Acclimation of Virginia's Foreign-Born Population (Selected Issues for Further Study)

**TOPIC SELECTION STATUS**  
**December 8, 2003**  
9:30 a.m. JLARC Conference Room

**Study Approved at July 14, 2003 Meeting**

Implementation review of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA), Investment Board, and Chief Information Officer (SB 1247). The Commission approved this follow-up study at its July 14, 2003 meeting.

**Studies Approved at October 14, 2003 Meeting**

Child protective services provided by the Department of Social Services. This study proposed by Delegate Parrish was discussed at July and September topic selection meetings and approved in October.

Development of inter-state comparisons of important benchmark areas, emphasis on recognizing effects of car tax and revenue stabilization fund. This study activity proposed by Senator Stosch was discussed at July and September topic selection meetings and approved in October.

**Exploratory Study Planning: Approved at October 14, 2003 Meeting**

An examination of higher education tenure policies, particularly post-tenure review, was proposed by Delegate Hargrove and discussed at July and September topic selection meetings. Exploratory review of the topic was begun in September with staff activities in the area reviewed at the October meeting. Exploratory study planning is continuing.

**New Items**

**Trauma Care Centers:** On November 4, 2003 Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Honorable Jane H. Woods, requested that JLARC conduct a study focusing on the use and financing of trauma care centers in Virginia hospitals. The request was discussed at the November 10 meeting and re-referred to the topic selection committee of JLARC. Secretary Woods' memo is attached. Also attached is a supporting letter from Senator Ken Stolle.

**HJR 604 (Acclimation of Virginia's Foreign Born):** The report required by HJR 604 was presented at the November 10 JLARC meeting. Several issues, including further analysis of five percent Census sample were suggested by staff for further review. The request was discussed at the November 10 JLARC meeting and referred to the topic selection committee of JLARC. A list of areas for possible further review is attached.



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Office of the Governor

Jane H. Woods  
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

(804) 786-7765  
Fax: (804) 371-6984  
TTY: (804) 786-7765

November 5, 2003

The Honorable Kevin G. Miller  
Member, Virginia Senate  
737 East Market Street  
Suite A  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 23504

Dear Senator Miller:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request JLARC's support in the completion of study focusing on the use and financing of trauma care centers in Virginia hospitals. In 2002, there were more than 2.5 million emergency room admissions in Virginia. More than 455,000 of these admissions were for trauma services.

To be designated as a trauma center, hospitals must meet certain criteria. These criteria govern the designation of hospitals as Level I Centers (all major trauma services provided 24 hours per day), Level II Centers (trauma care provided in a community based setting for less than 24 hours per day), and Level III Centers (mostly rural facilities that stabilize and transfer patients to Level I and Level II centers). Presently, Virginia hospitals operate a total of 13 trauma centers. The figures below report the distribution of these 13 centers according to their designated level of care.

Level I	39 percent
Level II	15 percent
Level III	46 percent

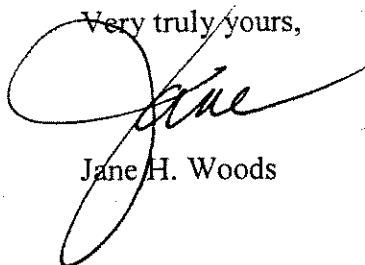
Although these trauma centers play a vital role in the delivery of healthcare to Virginia's citizens, it is believed that many operate close to or below margin because of several factors. These include: limited reimbursements for patient care, increases in the volume of patients needing trauma care, growing numbers of indigent and uninsured patients who receive this care, and the escalating cost of physician care for these services.

In light of JLARC's considerable expertise in conducting this type of research and analysis, I would appreciate your support in having the Commission direct its staff to complete a study of these centers. This review should include an examination of utilization trends for both

The Honorable Kevin G. Miller  
November 5, 2003  
Page 2 of 2

the number of patients served and the nature of trauma services that are provided statewide, an assessment of the demographics and insurance profile of patients using these services, and an analysis of the financial costs and benefits to the hospitals of providing this type of care in Virginia. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane", written over a large, stylized loop that extends to the left and then curves back to the right.

Jane H. Woods

JHW/csr

cc: The Honorable Lacey E. Putney, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Phil A. Leone, Director, JLARC

# SENATE OF VIRGINIA



KENNETH W. STOLLE  
 SENATOR  
 11th DISTRICT  
 1100 COMMONWEALTH BUILDING  
 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219  
 TEL: 804/781-2100  
 FAX: 804/781-2101  
 WWW.KENSTOLLE.COM

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
 COURTS OF JUSTICE, CHAIR  
 COMMERCE AND LABOR  
 FINANCE  
 PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
 RULES

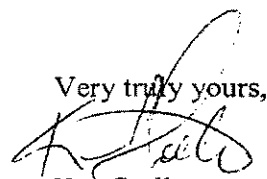
November 10, 2003

Mr. Philip A. Leone  
 Director  
 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission  
 General Assembly Building  
 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Phil:

As you are aware, trauma services have been a real issue in recent months in Hampton Roads. I would like to request that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission consider doing a study of trauma services, their delivery, and funding in the Commonwealth.

I believe this study is very much needed at this time. Thank you for your consideration. I am,

Very truly yours,  
  
 Ken Stolle

Enclosure 4



VIRGINIA HOSPITAL  
& HEALTHCARE  
ASSOCIATION

DEC 04 2003  
4200 INNSLAKE DRIVE, GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 23060-6712  
P.O. BOX 31394, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23294-1394  
(804) 747-8600 FAX (804) 965-0475

December 3, 2003

The Honorable Kevin G. Miller  
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission  
Senate of Virginia  
737 East Market Street, Suite A  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801-4265

Subject: Proposed JLARC study of hospital trauma center needs

Dear Senator Miller:

The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association strongly supports any effort to assess the need for and supplement healthcare resources, including trauma centers, and we offer our services to JLARC should it undertake the proposed study of hospital trauma centers to determine their needs, costs and threats to their capacity to care for trauma patients.

However, we also believe that additional funding dedicated to trauma care or to any other specific health care service area should be provided as part of additional support to meet all serious health care needs, including state Medicaid funding and improved disaster preparedness, among others. We also support the current effort to develop an inclusive trauma system, which would incorporate nondesignated hospitals in Virginia's trauma network, and we advocate for provision of needed support to those participants in Virginia's trauma system as well.

Thank you for your attention to our comments on the proposed study of hospital trauma centers. We offer our support in this endeavor as needed.

Sincerely,

Katharine M. Webb  
Senior Vice President

cc: Philip A. Leone

GA04traumajlarc1r

## **HJR 604: Acclimation of Virginia's Foreign-Born Population**

### **Areas for Possible Further Review**

- Continued analysis of 2000 Census data, including development of geographic information system (GIS) maps
- Identification of additional federal funding opportunities, including examining whether federal funding is available to assist private organizations in their English-as-a-second-language (ESL) activities
- Identification of additional local jurisdictions that may be eligible for federal funds through the federal State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)
- Identification of additional "best practices" of other states and local governments
- Continued examination of options to reduce victimization of immigrants
- Tracking of pending federal legislation, including: the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act, Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act, and Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act