



# Study Resolution

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## Transportation-Related Barriers to Health Care

Authorized by the Joint Commission on Health Care on December 17, 2024

WHEREAS, limited transportation options can impact a patient's ability to access health care services; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than one in five adults with limited public transit access forgo health care because of transportation barriers; and

WHEREAS, individuals who are older, of lower socioeconomic status, living in rural communities, or who have chronic health conditions or disabilities may be particularly impacted by transportation barriers to health care; and

WHEREAS, individuals who experience transportation barriers to healthcare may skip or delay care or miss appointments, leading to poorer health outcomes and higher health care costs; and

WHEREAS, multiple organizations, such as the House Select Committee on Rural Health, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, have identified transportation barriers to healthcare as a pressing issue in many localities in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, implementing strategies to reduce transportation barriers to healthcare could improve the health and well-being of Virginians; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Joint Commission on Health Care, that staff be directed to study transportation-related barriers to health care.

In conducting its study, staff shall (i) describe the types of transportation barriers to health care that exist in Virginia, the factors that contribute to the existence of such barriers, and the populations that are most affected by such barriers; (ii) identify and evaluate existing interventions and programs that address transportation barriers to health care in Virginia; (iii) identify strategies Virginia could implement to address transportation barriers, including strategies that have been implemented by other states; and (iv) recommend policy options through which the state may reduce transportation barriers to health care for patients in Virginia.

The Joint Commission on Health Care shall make recommendations as necessary and review other related issues as warranted.

In accordance with § 30-169.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, all agencies of the Commonwealth, including the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, the Virginia Department of

Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, shall provide assistance, information, and data to the Joint Commission on Health Care for this study upon request.