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# JLARC to study DMV and state contracting

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Posted: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 12:00 am

BY MICHAEL MARTZ Richmond Times-Dispatch

Virginia's legislative watchdog is about to take a close look at the Department of Motor Vehicles for the first time, while also undertaking a study of state agreements with private contractors.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission approved the two new studies Monday, while directing its staff to come back with proposals for taking on a high-profile study of the state Medicaid agency and a review of how water resources are managed in Virginia.

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JLARC Executive Director Hal Greer described the DMV review as a "basic operational and management study" of an agency with far-reaching requirements for licensing vehicles and drivers, while also issuing identity documents that have become critical to national security.

"We've never looked at DMV," Greer said. "That's the reason it showed up as a priority."

The contract study will touch on sensitive deals Virginia has made with private

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partners, including Northrop Grumman for information technology and projects for building a new toll expressway along U.S. 460 and expanding the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels in Hampton Roads.

Sen. John Watkins, R-Powhatan, chairman of the commission, also remains critical of proposals that the administration of then-Gov. Bob McDonnell considered but never consummated for privatizing operation of the Port of Virginia.

Watkins said the study will look at whether the state has adequate processes in place for developing and managing private contracts “to ensure the protection of the taxpayer and the general fund.”

mmartz@timesdispatch.com (804) 649-6964

nursing homes. — Mark Sickles



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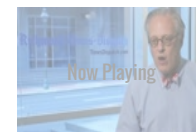
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