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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 164**

Offered January 24, 2000

*Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the expense and travel requirements imposed on rural volunteer rescue squads for training and certification.*

Patrons—Pollard, Callahan, Morgan and Orrock

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, for a great number of Virginia's citizens, particularly those in rural areas, volunteer rescue squads provide the only emergency medical services available; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services (EMS) policies whereby instructors were paid with funds from the regional EMS offices, textbooks were purchased for the individual by the individual agency, and clinical training was provided in area hospitals worked well for rural volunteer EMS agencies; and

WHEREAS, decisions by regional EMS offices to distance themselves from certification training have increased financial burdens on local EMS providers and their volunteers and sometimes require significant travel on the part of volunteers for clinical training; and

WHEREAS, the increased training costs and requirements for volunteers sometimes require volunteers to use their own financial resources in order to provide unpaid services to their communities; and

WHEREAS, local volunteer EMS providers face increasing difficulty recruiting volunteers as training time and costs increase; and

WHEREAS, rural communities would suffer greatly if local volunteer EMS providers were forced to close due to an insufficient number of volunteers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission be directed to study expense and travel requirements imposed on rural volunteer rescue squads for training and certification. The study shall also consider the impact of training and certification time and cost requirements on the ability to fund services and recruit volunteers.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission for this study, upon request.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2001 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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