

2000 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 217

Offered January 24, 2000

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the effectiveness and efficiency of the "911" system.

Patron—Broman

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, 911 is the three digit telephone number designated as the "universal emergency number" throughout the United States to request emergency assistance; and

WHEREAS, it is intended to provide the public direct access to a public safety answering point (PSAP) responsible for taking emergency calls and dispatching emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, difficulties in ascertaining a 911 caller's location delays emergency service delivery and presents a serious public safety concern; and

WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of auto accident fatalities occur within two hours after a crash and an estimated 1,200 lives are lost each year because of delay in locating the accident; and

WHEREAS, the 911 system merits careful examination to ensure the realization of its designed potential of promoting fast response to critical situations and to best preserve the health and safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the effectiveness and efficiency of the "911" system. The joint subcommittee shall be composed of seven members as follows: four members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker; and three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$ 7,000.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance shall be provided by the State Crime Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The joint subcommittee 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.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

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