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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 223

Offered January 24, 2000

*Continuing the Commission on Educational Infrastructure as the Commission on Educational Infrastructure and Technology.*

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Patron—Diamonstein

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Referred to Committee on Rules

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WHEREAS, beginning in the 1980s and gaining momentum in the 1990s, school construction and technology issues have been paramount in the minds of many of Virginia's division superintendents, school boards, and local government officials; and

WHEREAS, originally established pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 135 of 1998, the Commission on Educational Infrastructure was continued and expanded, with co-chairmen established in 1998; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, the Commission has implemented study plans to collect data and background information on Virginia construction and educational technology programs and on the programs implemented in other states; and

WHEREAS, in the last two years, the Commission has received presentations on North Carolina, Ohio, and West Virginia, conducted a review of construction issues in other states in the Southern region, examined higher education methodology for determining space utilization, received data on the Commonwealth's student demographics and the effects of facility needs, and initiated its own survey of facilities' needs in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, during the 1999 interim—the final year of the twentieth century—the Commission continued to receive data on the Literary Fund and from the Virginia Public School Authority; and

WHEREAS, the primary 1999 focus of the Commission was on the school of the new millennium, studying what the school of the twenty-first century will look like and how technology will impact building design and curricula, school operations, teaching, student achievement, and student discipline; and

WHEREAS, in accomplishing this goal, the Commission has received presentations on several innovative, high-tech public school programs, such as the Henry County's Universal Laptop Initiative, a unique collaboration between the local governing body and the school board to place a laptop computer in the homes of every fourth and eighth grade student and to expand this access to technology by one grade each year until all students in grades four through 12 have access to this program; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also received a presentation and a virtual tour of the Center for Applied Technology and Career Exploration (CATCE) in Franklin County, a problem-based learning approach that includes the Socratic method, project-based education, and discovery-based education in a high technology, corporate-setting environment; and

WHEREAS, these presentations and the data received on Virginia's educational technology efforts have convinced the Commission of the importance and integral role of educational technology in this new century; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also received the final report on the survey of facilities needs that was initiated in 1998, learning that 128 school divisions responded to the survey, providing data that indicates structural problems in significant numbers of schools, with one-third of the respondents noting the need for attention in the near future, 12 percent noting significant deficiencies, and three percent noting serious inadequacies; and

WHEREAS, of the 87 school divisions having capital improvement plans (approximately 68 percent), over three billion dollars of construction needs are projected for five years between 1999 and 2003; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the almost \$900 million in non-debt expenditures, the total outstanding indebtedness for school construction/infrastructure was reported as almost four billion dollars on June 30, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recommended the authorization of an escrow account for local governing bodies to deposit the lottery funds appropriated in 1999 for education infrastructure in order to empower those school divisions who were not able to spend the money in this fiscal year to carry the funds forward; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has also recommended the codification of the lottery distribution procedure that was included in the 1999 budget; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House, the Senate concurring, That the Commission on Educational Infrastructure be continued as the Commission on Educational Infrastructure and Technology. The

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60 members duly appointed pursuant to HJR No. 165 (1998) shall continue to serve, and any vacancies  
61 shall be filled as provided therein, except that appointment of the members of the House of Delegates to  
62 fill vacancies shall also be in accordance with the principles of Rule 16 of the Rules of the House of  
63 Delegates.

64 Staffing shall continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services, the House Committee  
65 on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance. In addition, all agencies of the  
66 Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

67 The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$19,500.

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

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