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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 272

Offered January 24, 2000

*Requesting the Departments of Professional and Occupational Regulation and Housing and Community Development to study certain asbestos and lead abatement issues.*

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Patron—Drake

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Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation administers the programs to certify both asbestos and lead contractors and workers and the Department of Housing and Community Development is responsible for the building code and other standards; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal law and state law, asbestos and lead contractors and workers are required to receive training; and

WHEREAS, asbestos and lead are more often present in older housing, particularly that housing built before 1978; and

WHEREAS, older housing is quite frequently the most affordable housing, particularly for parents with young children; and

WHEREAS, federal law requires that real estate professionals disclose known lead risks to the prospective buyers or tenants; and

WHEREAS, federal law also prohibits discrimination against people with children in the purchase of rental of housing; and

WHEREAS, no federal or state law provides any guidance to landlords or owners in terms of standards for reduction of asbestos and lead risks nor is the home owner or other building owner required to perform abatement; and

WHEREAS, it is virtually impossible to obtain liability insurance for some of these risks for older housing; and

WHEREAS, in addition, unless performed correctly, renovation or demolition of older homes can disturb the asbestos or lead and result in conditions that endanger future tenants and nearby residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Departments of Professional and Occupational Regulation and Housing and Community Development be requested to study certain asbestos and lead abatement issues. In performing this study, the Departments shall determine: (i) whether lead and asbestos risks are being identified prior to the initiation of renovation or demolition; (ii) whether lead and asbestos contractors and workers are receiving the required training; (iii) whether the training being received is effective and sufficient; and (iv) whether the lead and asbestos abatement projects across the Commonwealth are meeting state and federal requirements.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Departments of Professional and Occupational Regulation and Housing and Community Development for this study, upon request.

The Departments of Professional and Occupational Regulation and Housing and Community Development shall complete their work in time to submit their 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.

INTRODUCED

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