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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 278

Offered January 24, 2000

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study creation of a U. S. Route 29 Corridor Development Fund.

Patrons—Clement, Broman, Bryant, Byron and Dudley; Senators: Colgan, Hawkins and Newman

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Lynchburg Highway Construction District is the only District without an interstate highway; and

WHEREAS, the southern end of the U. S. Route 29 Corridor, primarily Charlottesville to Lynchburg to Danville, relies heavily on its state primary system highways for handling heavy local traffic volumes; and

WHEREAS, vehicle miles traveled in the Lynchburg Highway Construction District closely compare with those in the Culpeper and Staunton Districts, both of which are served by portions of Interstate Route 81 or Interstate Route 64, and are scarcely lower than vehicle miles traveled in the Northern Virginia and Fredericksburg Highway Construction Districts; and

WHEREAS, U. S. Route 29 is a designated Highway of National Significance; is the regional main north/south artery; and is, for all practical purposes, south-central Virginia's "interstate"; and

WHEREAS, the Lynchburg Highway Construction District has the largest land mass of any of the Highway Construction Districts, but receives the third smallest construction allocation, and since 1993 has had among the fewest newly constructed lane miles; and

WHEREAS, the Lynchburg Highway Construction District, nevertheless, must contribute funds "off-the-top" to the "special needs factor" to benefit the Bristol, Fredericksburg, and Northern Virginia Highway Construction Districts; and

WHEREAS, creating a U. S. Route 29 Corridor Development Fund would relieve pressure on primary system highway construction funds in the Lynchburg Highway Construction District, allowing their use for other pressing needs, such as upgrades to portions of U. S. Route 501; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study creation of a U. S. Route 29 Corridor Development Fund. 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 \$ 8,750.

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.

INTRODUCED

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