

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 2000 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 300

Requesting the Board of Education to join with the state boards of education for the states of Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina to encourage the inclusion of personal safety education in the public school curriculum and to encourage a similar program within the private schools.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 15, 2000

Agreed to by the Senate, March 8, 2000

WHEREAS, young children are extremely vulnerable to abduction and kidnapping; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a child disappears every 18 seconds; and

WHEREAS, 932,190 missing persons were reported to the police in 1998, and the FBI estimates that 85 to 90 percent of the missing persons were juveniles; and

WHEREAS, investigations by child protective service agencies in 49 states determined that almost one million children were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and neglect in 1997; and

WHEREAS, a survey conducted by the Gallup poll estimated that as many as 49 children per 1,000 in the population suffered physical abuse and 19 per 1,000 suffered sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, many charitable, nonprofit associations, such as Child Lures Prevention, have organized to curb the tide of this unfortunate circumstance and behavior of our modern society and are of the opinion that a multistate approach is necessary to fight this problem; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Board of Education be requested to join with the state boards of education for the states of Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina to encourage the inclusion of personal safety education in the public school curriculum and to encourage a similar program within the private schools. Public safety education should stress the importance of teaching children ways to protect their personal safety and avoid abduction and potential abuse; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and to the presidents of the boards of public education for the states of Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

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