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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 62

Offered January 18, 2000

*Requesting the Virginia Information Providers Authority to create a web portal for educational information and services.*

Patrons—Plum, Albo, Almand, Amundson, Brink, Callahan, Darner, Devolites, McClure, Moran, Parrish, Purkey, Rust, Scott, Van Landingham and Watts; Senators: Byrne, Howell, Newman, Puller, Ticer and Whipple

Referred to Committee on Science and Technology

WHEREAS, the Internet is a valuable resource in obtaining information regarding education, educational technology, and other education-related materials; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth already provides access to comprehensive Internet websites on education within the website maintained by the Virginia Information Providers Network ("VIPNet"), within the website maintained by the Virginia Department of Education ("Department"), and within the website known as the "Commonwealth of Knowledge"; and

WHEREAS, while these websites offer valuable educational information such as lesson plans, standards of learning, and other information for teachers, parents, and students, information regarding the purchase of educational technology equipment and hardware is not always readily available; and,

WHEREAS, on occasions, a teacher, a parent, or a student may have to search all three websites in order to find the information necessary for carrying out his educational pursuits; and,

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1999, the Commonwealth merged its two major Internet gateways, maintained by the Department of Information Technology and VIPNet, into a single web portal, thus providing Virginians with a convenient, user-friendly way to access all of the information and services that the government provides; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Information Providers Authority ("Authority"), in association with VIPNet, be requested to create, as soon as practicable, and maintain a web portal to serve as a common gateway to a comprehensive source of educational information and services, including information for the procurement of educational technology, as it has done for government information and services. Upon their requests, all agencies of the Commonwealth shall give assistance to the Authority and VIPNet in carrying out the provisions of this act. Upon carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Authority and VIPNet shall attempt to notify all interested persons.

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