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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 156

Offered January 24, 2000

Requesting the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Technology, and Secretary of Commerce and Trade to study the development of a Higher Education Technology Curriculum for the Twenty-first Century.

Patron—Stolle

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, it is essential that Virginia's four-year colleges prepare their students to learn, adapt, and expand their skills, thereby equipping them with the tools necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive, technology-based, twenty-first century global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the technology sector plays and will continue to play a key role in the growth of the Commonwealth's employment market and future economic development; and

WHEREAS, this shortage of competent and qualified technology workers is a major limiting factor on the continued growth of the technology sector within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the increasing workforce demands of the technology sector throughout the Commonwealth present a direct and profound challenge to Virginia's four-year colleges to provide their students with the education, training, and experiences necessary to better compete for technology jobs; and

WHEREAS, formalized education and training initiatives premised on closer linkage between and among Virginia's four-year colleges and the technology sector can help to bridge the gap between the employment needs of the Commonwealth's technology sector and the skill sets of Virginia's students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Technology, and Secretary of Commerce and Trade be requested to study the development of a common, transferable set of competencies, Higher Education Technology Curriculum for the Twenty-first Century, to be offered as part of the core curriculum at each of Virginia's four-year colleges. Provisions shall be made for the consultation of and participation by technology industry officials in the development of this curriculum.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretaries of Education, Technology, and Commerce and Trade for this study, upon request.

The Secretaries of Education, Technology, and Commerce and Trade shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Finance Committee, as well as the Senate Education and Health Committee and House Education Committee prior to November 1, 2000, and 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.

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