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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 175

Offered January 24, 2000

*Recognizing Virginia Naturally 2000 as the Commonwealth's official environmental education initiative.*

Patron—Hawkins

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, all of Virginia's citizens have a responsibility to act as good stewards of Virginia's precious natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's environment will soon be in the hands of its youngest citizens who will be tomorrow's leaders; and

WHEREAS, we recognize our responsibility as members of the General Assembly to ensure that Virginia's citizens and future leaders possess the knowledge and understanding of the impact of individual actions on Virginia's environment; and

WHEREAS, environmental education can aid youth and adults in making informed decisions, in becoming committed to taking responsible actions, and in analyzing issues through critical thinking for the sake of Virginia's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the partners of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement recognized the importance of environmental education efforts in signing Executive Council Directive Number 98-1 to initiate the "Chesapeake Bay Program Education Initiative"; and

WHEREAS, Governor James S. Gilmore has launched a comprehensive environmental education initiative for the entire Commonwealth to be spearheaded by Secretary of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is designed to coordinate environmental education efforts among Virginia's state agencies, federal agencies, local governments, private industry and business, non-profit environmental organizations, public and private school systems, and others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby recognizes Virginia Naturally 2000 as the Commonwealth's official environmental education initiative; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Secretary of Natural Resources as an expression of the General Assembly's support of this important effort.

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