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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 215**  
**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules  
on February 14, 2000)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Whipple)

*Directing the Commission on Youth to conduct a study to determine if changes in state policy and regulation can better protect children's environmental health.*

WHEREAS, children in the Commonwealth face an array of preventable exposures to environmental hazards in their schools, homes, and communities; and

WHEREAS, children are at greater risk than adults for exposure to and possible illness from environmental hazards, and have greater sensitivity to environmental hazards during the stages of development and growth as a result of their immature organs and tissues and weaker immune systems; and

WHEREAS, poverty is one of the factors that places children of ethnic and minority communities at disproportionate risk for environmental hazard exposures, due to inadequate housing, poor nutrition, and limited access to health care; and

WHEREAS, solutions to complex environmental health problems require the ongoing communication, collaboration, and cooperation of affected communities and many disciplines including science, medicine, public health, economics, planning, and law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Commission on Youth be directed to conduct a study to determine if changes in state policy and regulation can better protect children's environmental health. The study shall (i) review literature from the Center of Disease Control, the Children's Environmental Health Network and other centers of research; (ii) review recommendations and any legislation to establish a surveillance system to monitor asthma incidence and severity among children in Virginia; (iii) consider alternatives in reducing risks associated with pest management in schools and child care facilities; (iv) suggest ways to increase public health education about environmental health risks to children.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission on Youth for this study, upon request.

The Commission on Youth 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.

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE**

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