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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 77

Offered January 17, 2000

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study webcasting.

Patrons—Newman and Ticer; Delegates: Nixon, Plum and Purkey

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Internet is a new medium capable of effectively delivering government information and services to interested persons so that the citizens of the Commonwealth may become better informed about their government; and

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Science of the United States Congress and other state legislatures broadcast their meetings over the Internet through a technology referred to as "webcasting"; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 Session of the General Assembly created the Joint Commission on Technology and Science as a permanent legislative commission for the purpose of studying all aspects of technology and science and to promote the development of technology and science in the Commonwealth through sound public policies; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been receiving requests from Virginia citizens to webcast its meetings, and the Commission favors webcasting not only the Commission's meetings but also the meetings of other legislative entities; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Oversight Subcommittee of the Joint Rules Committee has recommended that the Joint Rules Committee consider a study to develop guidelines on webcasting and remote broadcasting by legislative agencies and commissions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study and develop guidelines on webcasting and remote broadcasting by legislative entities. The joint subcommittee shall be composed of seven members as follows: (i) two members of the Joint Commission on Technology and Science, upon recommendation by the Chairman of the Joint Commission on Technology and Science, one of whom shall be a member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, and (ii) five members of the Joint Rules Committee, three of whom shall be members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and two of whom shall be members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$ 1,750.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Automated Systems. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Joint Rules Committee 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.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

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