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HOUSE BILL NO. 1943

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 9, 2001

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 5.6 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-51.31:1, relating to the creation of a teleworking pilot program by the Secretary of Administration.

Patron—Hull

Referred to Committee on Science and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 5.6 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-51.31.1 as follows:

§ 2.1-51.31.1. Secretary to establish teleworking pilot program.

As used in this section:

"Pilot program" means the teleworking pilot program established in accordance with this section.

"Teleworking" means using telecommunications technology to work at a location other than a traditional office setting.

"Secretary" means the Secretary of Administration.

B. The Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Technology, shall establish a teleworking pilot program to allow state employees to work at locations other than state offices through the use of telecommunication technology. The Secretary shall adopt a teleworking policy and guidelines necessary to establish and carry out the purposes of the pilot program and shall provide staff to manage the operations of the pilot program.

C. The Secretary shall hire a teleworking consultant to provide technical assistance in implementing the pilot program, including (i) developing and conducting training programs for teleworking state employees, (ii) identifying teleworking centers, including distributive training technology centers that are available to state teleworkers, and (iii) performing such other duties as required by the Secretary.

D. The Secretary shall establish a telework advisory committee that shall consist of a representative from each secretariat and the agency head of the executive branch agencies selected by the Secretary on recommendation of the telework advisory committee to participate in the pilot program. The telework advisory committee shall (i) assist the secretary in establishing telework programs in selected executive branch agencies; (ii) conduct a survey of the number of potentially eligible teleworkers in each executive branch agency; and (iii) determine the cost effectiveness of implementing telework programs in executive branch agencies, including an analysis of any cost savings resulting from increased productivity, reduction in the use of sick leave, decrease in employee turnover, and reduction in required office space.

E. On or before October 1, 2003, the Secretary shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly on his activities and those of the telework advisory committee related to the pilot program, the success of the pilot program and its effect on each selected agency, and any recommendations for implementing a permanent telework program for all executive branch agencies.

F. The provisions of this section shall expire on October 1, 2003.

INTRODUCED

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