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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 650

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the feasibility of permitting state employees to purchase prior service credit in the Virginia Retirement System for services rendered as an hourly employee or under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

Patrons—Tate and Jackson

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) was enacted in 1973 as a federal program designed to assist economically disadvantaged, unemployed, or underemployed persons; and

WHEREAS, the CETA program provided block grants to state and local governments to support public and private job training; and

WHEREAS, numerous Virginians worked for several years under this program for Virginia state and local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, unlike their fellow employees, these Virginians did not receive service credit under the Virginia Retirement System (VRS); and

WHEREAS, many of these Virginians are now full-time state employees covered under VRS; and

WHEREAS, it may be beneficial to these employees if they were permitted to purchase a portion of their prior service; and

WHEREAS, for similar reasons, it may be beneficial to permit other state employees to purchase a portion of their prior service not under the CETA program as hourly employees for Virginia state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, a study of the feasibility of permitting these employees to purchase a portion of their prior service has not been undertaken; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the feasibility of permitting any state employee to purchase up to three years of prior service credit in the Virginia Retirement System for services rendered for two or more consecutive years as an hourly employee or under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act for any employer covered under the Virginia Retirement System, at the rate of 15 percent of salary for each year purchased. The joint subcommittee shall consist of nine members, which shall include seven legislative members and two ex officio members as follows: five members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; and the Executive Director of the Virginia Retirement System or his designee and the Director of the Department of Human Resource Management or his designee, both to serve ex officio with full voting privileges.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$7,000.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Virginia Retirement System and the Department of Human Resource Management. 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 written findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2002 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.

INTRODUCED

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