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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 665

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the process for developing and implementing new regulations for professions and occupations regulated by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

Patrons—Armstrong and Morgan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) regulates 29 occupations and professions in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory functions of DPOR are carried out primarily through 19 regulatory boards that are comprised of citizens appointed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, these regulatory boards license or certify more than 240,000 regulants and carry out the essential duties of (i) establishing minimum standards to obtain a license, (ii) creating standards of conduct for license holders, and (iii) disciplining license holders who violate the laws or regulations pertaining to their professions or occupation; and

WHEREAS, the functions carried out by DPOR and its regulatory boards are integral to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth and to assisting economic growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, one of these functions involves the implementation of new regulations for the professions and occupations regulated by DPOR; and

WHEREAS, it is critical, both to the regulated community and the citizens of the Commonwealth who use their services, to achieve the development and implementation of new regulations efficiently and expeditiously; and

WHEREAS, the failure by DPOR to efficiently and expeditiously develop and implement new regulations adversely effect its ability to carry out its duty to protect the public; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Session of the General Assembly passed legislation requiring natural gas fitter providers to be license by the Board for Contractors, one of the regulatory boards housed at DPOR; and

WHEREAS, the development and implementation of regulations was an important aspect of the license requirement; and

WHEREAS, after the legislation became effective on July 1, 1999, the process used by DPOR to develop the new regulations required for natural gas fitter providers prevented the timely implementation of the regulations; and

WHEREAS, the failure to timely set the regulations in place resulted in delaying the full implementation of the license requirement; and

WHEREAS, the inability of DPOR to implement the new regulations in a timely manner for any regulatory program is a serious problem that should be rectified to prevent future problems and delays; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the process for developing and implementing new regulations for industries regulated by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation and determine how the process may be improved upon to achieve more timely results. The joint subcommittee shall be composed of seven 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, and two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

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

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. 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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