

## 2001 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 669

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

*Requesting the Virginia Association for Community Conflict Resolution to study the desirability of establishing community mediation programs in the Commonwealth.*

Patrons—Hall and Baskerville; Senator: Lambert

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the value of mediation in helping the citizens of Virginia to peacefully resolve conflicts and disputes; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the states have community mediation programs; and

WHEREAS, there exist a variety of methods for supporting community mediation programs; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit community mediation centers of Virginia have served our citizens for over 15 years; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear need for the establishment of additional mediation centers in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Virginia to sustain the presence and excellence of these community mediation programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the Virginia Association for Community Conflict Resolution, with the assistance of the Virginia State Bar/Virginia Bar Association Joint Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Institute for Environmental Negotiation at the University of Virginia, study the desirability and feasibility of establishing community mediation centers in the Commonwealth. The study shall (i) document the need for community mediation programs in the Commonwealth, (ii) identify dispute resolution services within the Commonwealth and how mediation centers provide and augment those services, and (iii) clarify what other states are doing in the field of mediation, how those states benefit from community mediation programs, and how the states provide funding support to those programs.

The study shall be completed in time to submit 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.

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