

2001 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 361

Offered January 10, 2001

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Requesting the Secretary of Finance to study the assessment of additional transaction fees when citizens pay Commonwealth penalties, taxes, license fees and other charges with credit cards or other electronic methods of payment.

Patrons—Newman and Ticer; Delegates: Christian, May, Nixon and Plum

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, processing costs and losses associated with accepting payment by cash, check or money order are increasing; and

WHEREAS, losses associated with bad checks are rarely recovered; and

WHEREAS, citizens who use credit cards or other electronic methods of payment to pay Commonwealth penalties, taxes, license fees and other costs usually must pay an additional transaction fee for such use; and

WHEREAS, use of credit cards or other electronic methods of payment may reduce processing costs, losses due to bad checks and other receivable related costs; and

WHEREAS, use of credit cards or other electronic methods of payment encourages the continued expansion of the provision of governmental services by electronic means and the payment of those services; and

WHEREAS, providing governmental services electronically may further reduce processing costs and other receivable related costs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Finance be requested to study the assessment of additional transaction fees when citizens pay Commonwealth penalties, taxes, license fees and other charges with credit cards or other electronic methods of payment. In conducting the study, the Secretary of Finance shall determine whether using credit cards or other electronic methods of payment to pay these charges reduces processing costs, losses due to bad checks and other receivable related costs enough so that the Commonwealth should waive the additional transaction fees associated with their use.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary of Finance for this study, upon request.

The Secretary of Finance shall complete his work in time to submit his 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.

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