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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 124**

House Amendments in [ ] — February 11, 2002

*Requesting the Department of Business Assistance and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to redouble their efforts to enhance the growth and prosperity of economically stressed communities in the Commonwealth.*

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Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Armstrong

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Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

WHEREAS, economic development has been a major topic of discussion and study throughout the Commonwealth during the past decade; and

WHEREAS, a number of strategies have been considered and adopted to encourage businesses to locate and expand within the Commonwealth; and

[ ~~WHEREAS, although economic development efforts have been initiated throughout the Commonwealth, economically stressed communities have derived little benefit from these efforts; and~~ ]

WHEREAS, economically stressed communities are those localities that have had a net loss of 10 percent of their jobs in the last five years or have an unemployment rate of more than nine percent over a period of six months; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing may still have a place as part of the economic base in many parts of Virginia, but it is unlikely that it will take the form of big factories producing large volumes of standardized products for mass consumption; and

WHEREAS, the disparity in incomes and economic opportunity between rural and urban areas is widening; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth should help economically stressed communities gain access to the tools of the new economy so that they can make their own prosperity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Business Assistance and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership be requested to redouble their efforts to enhance the growth and prosperity of economically stressed communities in the Commonwealth.

ENGROSSED

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