

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 69

Directing the Virginia State Crime Commission to study special conservators of the peace and special police.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 12, 2002
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 5, 2002

WHEREAS, the Virginia Code allows for the appointment of special conservators of the peace and special police for public and private entities operating in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, these special officers are appointed by the circuit courts and, although, the courts may require that these officers have the same training as a law-enforcement officer, the law does not require them to do so; and

WHEREAS, in order to be effective when serving in a law enforcement capacity, a certain level of training seems to be in order; and

WHEREAS, because these officers are appointed on an as-needed basis throughout the state, the number of persons exercising authority under circuit court appointment is unknown; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Virginia State Crime Commission be directed to study special conservators of the peace and special police. Technical assistance shall be provided to the Commission by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. This study shall include, but not be limited to, (i) the chronicity and rationale for current appointments of conservators and special police officers statewide, (ii) training needs of appointees to ensure understanding of constitutional and criminal law, (iii) proper search and seizure techniques, (iv) proper manner of executing arrest, and (v) personal safety concerns and issues when exercising conservator powers.

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

The Commission shall complete its work by November 30, 2002, and shall submit its written findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2003 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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