

2002 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 80

Requesting the Secretary of Transportation to study the use of Personal Electric Rapid Transit System (PERTS) Technology.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 6, 2002

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 5, 2002

WHEREAS, safety is a primary goal of the Commonwealth's transportation program; and
WHEREAS, many of the Commonwealth's interstate highways are experiencing an erosion of safety as the result of staggering increases in traffic; and

WHEREAS, one acute example of this situation is Interstate Route 81, whose facility design was intended to carry a load of no more than 15 percent truck traffic, but whose current traffic volume indicates close to 50 percent truck traffic load; and

WHEREAS, the widening of Interstate Route 81 alone is estimated to cost in excess of \$3 billion and take at least 10 years to complete, with similar improvements to other highways with high traffic volumes costing comparable amounts and requiring no less time; and

WHEREAS, it may be both desirable and feasible in the short-term and long-term to alleviate excessive traffic on Interstate Route 81, and other highways in Virginia, by shifting these same vehicular occupants to passenger trains on the railroad network; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Transportation be requested to study the use of Personal Electric Rapid Transit System (PERTS) Technology. In conducting the study, the Secretary shall determine the desirability and feasibility of establishing PERTS technology, currently housed at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, in an effort to decrease Virginia's highway traffic volumes through shifting occupants to the passenger rail or transit facility.

All costs for this study shall be paid by private industry or from other nonstate sources.

The Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall assist the Secretary in the conduct of the study. Other agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary, upon request.

The Secretary of Transportation shall complete his work by November 30, 2002, and shall submit his 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.

ENROLLED

SJ80ER