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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 352

Offered January 8, 2003

Prefiled January 8, 2003

*Directing the State Water Commission, as part of its evaluation of the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's water policies, to study alternative technologies to develop additional supplies of water. Report.*

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 Referred to Committee on Rules
 

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WHEREAS, the 2002 Session of the General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 202, which directed the State Water Commission to study the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's water policies; and

WHEREAS, in its 2-year study, the Commission is to examine (i) Virginia's current water laws and policies, (ii) the adequacy of such laws and policies in providing adequate water supplies, (iii) the role the Commonwealth should play in data collection, water supply planning, water allocation, dispute resolution, and water development, and (iv) the role of the Commonwealth in watershed planning to provide quality raw water; and

WHEREAS, ever-increasing demand in the face of recent drought conditions has called attention to the precious nature of this commodity; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that demands in the future may exhaust existing supplies, many individuals and communities have instituted various conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, demand suppression, while an effective strategy, is not the sole solution to the water supply problem; and

WHEREAS, the development of alternative technologies to increase the supply of water, such as desalinization, have the potential to significantly increase our water supplies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the State Water Commission be directed, as part of its evaluation of the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's water policies, to study alternative technologies to develop additional supplies of water. The Commission shall examine such alternative technologies as desalinization and whether incentives could be provided to those localities implementing alternative water sources. The study shall also consider the inclusion of drought measures as integral component of a state water policy.

The Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates shall provide administrative staff support. The Division of Legislative Services shall provide legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission for this study, upon request.

The Commission shall be limited to 4 meetings for this study during the 2003 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$13,800 without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the Chairman.

The Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2003, and the Chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Commission intends to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2003 interim.

INTRODUCED

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