

2004 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 112

Offered January 14, 2004

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Encouraging Virginia's legislators to go on a "welfare diet."

Patron—Van Yahres

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, an estimated 750,000 Virginians live in poverty, with insufficient resources to ensure a decent standard of living; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of Virginia's families live in low-income and poor-income situations; and

WHEREAS, these statistics represent 452,477 children; and

WHEREAS, everyday the problems of feeding, housing, and general self-care are faced by these families; and

WHEREAS, food stamps provide aid, but not necessarily adequate aid; and

WHEREAS, the expense and lack of availability of nutritious food leads to unhealthy diets, obesity, and shortened attention spans of children in these low-income families; and

WHEREAS, Virginia legislators must make difficult decisions that directly affect the lives of these families; and

WHEREAS, an opportunity for Virginia's legislators to experience first-hand the plight of the Commonwealth's low-income families may result in a deeper understanding of their plight; and

WHEREAS, Virginia legislators who volunteer will be given the opportunity to budget their food purchases in a manner similar to the Commonwealth's low-income families; and

WHEREAS, legislators who volunteer will receive an information packet describing the program and would be restricted to using the same amount of money that is allotted in food stamps to a single individual and would be bound to use that amount under the same restrictions that apply to families that use food stamps; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary two-week program would be timed to coincide with World Food Day, October 16, 2004, a program sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly urge its individual members to volunteer to go on a "welfare diet" for a two-week period to gain greater understanding of the dire circumstances of thousands of Virginia families.

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