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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 125

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 13, 2004

Requesting the Board of Education, the State Community College Board, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to develop a template for a statewide articulation agreement. Report.

Patron—Hamilton

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education is established in Chapter 30 (§ 30-198 et seq.) of Title 30 and among its charges is to facilitate coordination of public school career and technical services, workforce training programs, and efforts among agencies and institutions of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in this regard, the Advisory Council has received much information from the Department of Education, the Community College System, the local school divisions, and the Governor's workforce development initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council has received testimony that the elements and development of articulation agreements may be uneven across the Commonwealth's school divisions and between and among the Commonwealth's community colleges and public institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, articulation agreements can provide a seamless pathway for students to progress from high school to community college to complete industry certifications and obtain state licensures and, for certain students, this seamless pathway will lead to enrollment in four-year institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, an educated workforce is the Commonwealth's only way to maintain its economic base while improving incentives for business and industry to locate in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council has also been informed that articulation will be receiving substantial attention by the Community College System; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council believes that articulation agreements can benefit all parties, i.e., students, schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions, by eliminating duplication of course work for students and reducing the time and money required to obtain post-secondary training and education; and

WHEREAS, therefore, the Advisory Council believes that all levels of public education should cooperate in the development of a template for a statewide articulation agreement in the Commonwealth in order to facilitate students' movement through a K-16 system that allows smooth transitions between high school, community college, and four-year institutions of higher education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Board of Education, the State Community College Board, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia be requested to develop a template for a statewide articulation agreement.

In developing a template, the Board of Education, the State Community College Board, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall (i) appoint a taskforce of staffers and stakeholders to identify obstacles and issues that must be considered, including any issues relating to credentialing of teachers and how credits can be transferred from one high school to another, from any high school to any community college, and from any community college to the public four-year institutions of higher education; and (ii) direct the taskforce to develop a template that provides for flexibility for school divisions, community colleges, and four-year institutions of higher education taking into account the various curricula that are offered in the many schools, colleges, and universities and the local economic and other conditions.

The Board of Education, the State Community College Board, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall ensure that the template includes (a) some standardization of credit transfers from high school to community colleges across the Commonwealth and from community colleges to public and private four-year institutions of higher education across the Commonwealth; (b) provides options for the various corners of the Commonwealth that are tailored to match the capabilities of the educational agencies in local areas while offering opportunities for improvement in cooperation and collaboration between and among the various levels of education; and (c) a list of programs and courses that are articulated from one level to another, the identity of the educational agencies that are articulated for each program or course, the tuition charges for the various classes at the different levels, information on limitations on enrollment in the various programs or classes, and the effect, if any, on tuition charges of articulation agreements in the community colleges and four-year institutions of higher education.

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59 Technical assistance shall be provided to the Board of Education, State Community College Board,
60 and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia by the local directors of career and technical
61 education in the public schools, the division superintendents, the presidents of the community colleges,
62 and the presidents of the four-year institutions of higher education. All agencies of the Commonwealth
63 shall provide assistance to the Board of Education, State Community College Board, and the State
64 Council of Higher Education for Virginia for this study, upon request. Input may also be received from
65 Virginia's private institutions of higher education, upon request.

66 The Board of Education, State Community College Board, and the State Council of Higher Education
67 for Virginia shall complete their meetings on this matter and shall report on the statewide articulation
68 agreement template to the Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education by November 30, 2004.

69 The Board of Education, State Community College Board, and the State Council of Higher Education
70 for Virginia shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report
71 of its findings and recommendations (for publication as a document). The executive summary and report
72 shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for
73 the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2005 Regular
74 Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.