

2004 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 180

Designating the third Saturday in November, in 2004 and in each succeeding year, as Celebrate Adoption Day in Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 30, 2004

Agreed to by the Senate, March 9, 2004

WHEREAS, according to the National Adoption Day Coalition, there are nearly 550,000 children in foster care in the United States, and more than 126,000 of these children are currently available for adoption; and

WHEREAS, only 20 to 25 percent of foster children waiting for adoption will ever leave foster care to join an adoptive family before becoming ineligible for government care at age 18; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for a nationwide effort to increase the number of foster child adoptions, the Alliance for Children's Rights organized the first National Adoption Day in 2000 to facilitate the adoption of children and bring attention to the plight of foster children awaiting adoption; and

WHEREAS, the first National Adoption Day resulted in the adoption of hundreds of children in a single day, 209 in New York and more than 600 in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, 63 percent of Americans hold a "very favorable" opinion of adoption, and 78 percent believe that the country should be doing more to encourage adoption; and

WHEREAS, recent National Adoption Days proved that publicizing the importance of adoption can lead more people to consider adopting a child; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the third Saturday in November, in 2004 and in each succeeding year, as Celebrate Adoption Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the National Adoption Day Coalition so that its members may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

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