

2005 SESSION

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 817
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 18, 2005)
(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Reese)

Directing The Council on Capitol Square upon its creation to examine the placement of an appropriate memorial in Capitol Square to commemorate the courage and sacrifice of Virginia's first responders.

WHEREAS, numerous states have established memorials on or about the grounds of their respective state capitol complexes to honor fallen law-enforcement officers and other first responders; and

WHEREAS, State law defines "first responders" as all law-enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, or other public safety personnel functioning in a role identified by a federal, state, or local response plan; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is one of several states in the country without a state-level memorial honoring first responders who have been killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1134 (2005) as amended by the substitute adopted by the Senate Committee on Rules would establish The Council on Capitol Square as a legislative collegial body to operate, maintain, and preserve Capitol Square, including the placement of monuments and sculptures on Capitol Square; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Rules agreed to take no further action on Senate Bill 1134 in order to examine the legislation during the 2005 interim for possible modification and reintroduction at the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, private funding and government grants are currently being considered and planned by private sources to finance the construction and maintenance of such a memorial, and to sponsor annual memorial events to honor our fallen Virginia first responders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That The Council on the Capitol Square be directed upon its creation to examine the placement of an appropriate memorial in Capitol Square to commemorate the courage and sacrifice of Virginia's first responders; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That this resolution shall become effective upon the establishment by law of The Council on Capitol Square.

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