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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 397

Offered January 12, 2005

Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the impact of the Virginia Department of Transportation's privatization efforts on female and minority employees of the agency and small, women- and minority-owned business. Report.

Patron—Miller

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is the chief state agency overseeing over 57,000 miles of state-maintained road system; and

WHEREAS, more than 12,603 bridges throughout the state, four underwater crossings in the Hampton Roads area, and two mountain tunnels in Southwest Virginia are included in the system; and

WHEREAS, in addition to maintaining existing roads, bridges, and tunnels, VDOT also engages in numerous new roadway construction projects; and

WHEREAS, VDOT spends more than \$3 billion of federal and state funds every year; and

WHEREAS, VDOT has over 9,300 employees, many of whom are female or members of minorities, making it one of the three largest agencies in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, since VDOT receives federal funds, it is required to utilize disadvantaged businesses, which are described as minority-owned or women-owned businesses, on its roadway maintenance and construction projects; and

WHEREAS, in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004, VDOT reported \$443,138,659 in direct expenditures with only 1.9 percent going to minority-owned businesses and 1.74 percent going to women-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the early 1993 with the commencement of the Dulles Toll Road Extension and later in 1995 with the passage of the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA), VDOT began to enter into agreements with private sector businesses to have them perform roadway construction and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, as the privatization measures taken by VDOT increase, there is also a likelihood of adverse impacts on female and minority employees of the agency as well as small, women- and minority-owned companies that are available to contract with VDOT; and

WHEREAS, it is integral to the Commonwealth to assure (i) that the rights of female and minority VDOT employees are adequately protected, and (ii) that small, women- and minority-owned businesses are provided adequate opportunities to become business partners with the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission be directed to study the impact of the Virginia Department of Transportation's privatization efforts on female and minority employees of the agency and small, women- and minority-owned businesses.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission for this study, upon request.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2005, and the Commission 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 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Commission intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate 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.

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