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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 128

Offered January 11, 2006

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Directing the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission to study the feasibility of enabling legislation to authorize localities to provide real property tax incentives to encourage buildings to be constructed using "green building" or "sustainable" designs consistent with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Report.

Patron—Ware, O.

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings; and

WHEREAS, the LEED principles were created to define "green building" by establishing a common standard of measurement; promote integrated, whole-building design practices; recognize environmental leadership in the building industry; stimulate green competition; raise consumer awareness of green building benefits; and transform the building market; and

WHEREAS, the principles of the LEED standards include state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency to decrease our dependence on foreign fuels, environmentally preferable materials selection, and indoor environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, the LEED principles are currently available for new construction and major renovation projects and existing building operations; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to encourage the construction of these types of buildings to reduce energy consumption and promote a cleaner environment; and

WHEREAS, the investment of a few dollars of tax relief to encourage the construction of these types of buildings will provide benefits to Virginians for decades in the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission be directed to study the feasibility of enabling legislation to authorize localities to provide real property tax incentives to encourage buildings to be constructed using "green building" or "sustainable" designs consistent with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

In conducting its study, the Commission shall examine the estimated benefits of a cleaner environment and less energy consumption as well as determining how many other states provide these kinds of incentives. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission for this study, upon request.

The Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2006, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2007 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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