

## 2006 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 211

Offered January 20, 2006

*Encouraging the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to further educate the citizens of the Commonwealth on effective disaster preparedness for natural and manmade disasters.*

Patrons—Waddell and Valentine

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, effective disaster preparedness can prevent unnecessary loss of life and injuries, especially to small children, disabled persons, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina exposed weaknesses in the federal, state, and local government response to widespread disasters such that states should enhance emergency response plans and further inform the public about appropriate protocol in a disaster; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of September 11th, it is essential for the citizens of the Commonwealth to contemplate an effective response to terrorist threats; and

WHEREAS, all households should be aware of the need to prepare for the unexpected, whether a manmade or natural disaster, including assembling a supply kit, providing for the safety of domestic animals, and developing a family communications and shelter plan; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management have worked tirelessly to ensure that the citizens of the Commonwealth will be safe in such disaster situations; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management possess various tools, guides, and resources to help citizens prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters, but these materials may not be well known to the general public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management be encouraged to further education the citizens of the Commonwealth on effective disaster preparedness for natural and manmade disasters; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness and the State Coordinator of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, requesting that the Assistant to the Governor and the State Coordinator further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

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