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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled December 28, 2005

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study science, math, and technology education in the Commonwealth at the elementary, secondary, and undergraduate levels. Report.

Patron—Cosgrove

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a tradition of leadership in information technology, nanotechnology, modeling and simulation, biotechnology, and other innovative science and technology fields; and

WHEREAS, as the Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Commission noted in their March 2005 report that a constant influx of science and engineering graduates into the workforce is necessary for continued economic growth in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, representatives from both the business and education communities have indicated to the Joint Commission on Technology and Science that increased emphasis on science, math, and technology education is necessary at the elementary and secondary level in order to interest students in pursuing undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate careers in science, math, and technology; and

WHEREAS, as the Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Commission noted in their March 2005 report that Virginia retains fewer graduates of science and engineering programs than states of similar population size; and

WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that the curricula of Virginia's public schools provide an adequate foundation for students to pursue and continue successful studies of science, math, and technology at institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, increased emphasis and access to science, math, and technology education by students in all regions of the Commonwealth will ensure that Virginia can continue to be a leader in the science and technology sectors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study science, math, and technology education in the Commonwealth at the elementary, secondary, and undergraduate levels. The joint subcommittee shall also study ways to provide incentives for students to pursue careers in these sectors. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 14 that shall consist of eight legislative members, two nonlegislative citizen members, and four ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; one nonlegislative citizen member who shall be a member of a local school board in the Commonwealth to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and one nonlegislative citizen member who shall be a professor of science, math, or technology-related courses at a state institution of higher education to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The Secretary of Finance, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, and the President of the Center for Innovative Technology, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall be reimbursed only for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall review the curriculum of existing public schools in the Commonwealth, including Governor's Schools and other specialized public schools devoted to math, science, or technology; study accessibility to specialized public schools by students throughout the Commonwealth; examine the Standards of Learning for math and science to ensure that students are provided with the fundamentals necessary for successful continuation of science, math, and technology education at the college level; review and recommend innovative ways to interest students at all education levels in science, math, and technology; and examine the possibility of encouraging partnerships between educators at the Commonwealth's public schools and institutions of higher

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59 education, as well as with business and research entities in the science and technology sectors located in
60 the Commonwealth.

61 Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates.
62 Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be
63 provided by the Division of Legislative Services. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide
64 assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

65 The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2006 interim and four meetings for
66 the 2007 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$9,200 for each year without
67 approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require
68 the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a
69 companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall
70 be required.

71 No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members
72 or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the
73 recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the
74 joint subcommittee.

75 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2006, and for
76 the second year by November 30, 2007, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative
77 Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first
78 day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall
79 state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a
80 report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The
81 executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of
82 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports, and shall be
83 posted on the General Assembly's website.

84 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
85 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or
86 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2006 or 2007
87 interim.