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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 621

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled January 8, 2007

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the development and utilization of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport. Report.

Patron—Kilgore

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, since the launch of the first private suborbital flight in 2004, Ohio, New Mexico, and Texas began developing plans to build spaceports for the launch of future suborbital flights; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the private space launch industry will reach one billion dollars in annual revenue by 2020, mostly attributed to suborbital commercial tourism flights; and

WHEREAS, with the growth of the International Space Station and future planned missions to the Moon and Mars, NASA will likely look to private companies to contract for re-supply missions; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, located on Wallops Island, is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration to perform orbital and suborbital launches; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport's proximity to several suborbital and orbital launch companies provides it a competitive advantage in attracting launch business; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the development and utilization of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 17 members that shall consist of eight legislative members, five 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; three nonlegislative citizen members representing the aerospace, suborbital, or orbital launch industries to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and two nonlegislative citizen members representing the aerospace, suborbital, or orbital launch industries to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The Secretary of Technology, Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Secretary of Finance, and the Executive Director of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership 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 only be reimbursed 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 (i) identify any federal or state regulatory impediments, including taxation, to the development of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport; (ii) identify potential economic development opportunities and marketing strategies to attract launch companies to Virginia; (iii) identify potential state legal barriers to human spaceflight, including liability and assumption of risk issues; and (iv) develop a long-term strategic plan to make the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport the premiere commercial hub for space travel in the United States.

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

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2007 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$10,000 without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

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

The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2007, and the chairman shall

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59 submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and
60 recommendations no later than the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The
61 executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General
62 Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or
63 Senate document. The executive summary and the report shall be submitted as provided in the
64 procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents
65 and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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