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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 642
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules
on January 31, 2007)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Nutter)

Requesting the State Council of Higher Education to include in its current strategic planning initiative consideration of Virginia's competitiveness in attracting and retaining faculty for public institutions of higher education. Report.

WHEREAS, a college education is essential in a knowledge-based global economy, and increased knowledge and skills result in enhanced employability, higher earning power, career advancement, and a better quality of life; and

WHEREAS, quality faculty develop and deliver world class educational programs responsive to student needs; and

WHEREAS, faculty expertise enables college graduates to become productive, tax-paying employees for thousands of employers across the Commonwealth, region, and nation; and

WHEREAS, a base budget funding gap of \$350 million has greatly diminished the ability of Virginia's public colleges and universities to effectively respond to an increasingly competitive market for quality faculty; and

WHEREAS, the Council of University Presidents, legislators, and business leaders across the Commonwealth have expressed concerns regarding the impact of funding gaps and budget reductions on the ability of institutions to recruit and retain high quality faculty; and

WHEREAS, the State Council of Higher Education is developing a new six-year strategic systemwide plan for higher education in the Commonwealth and the enhancement of the Commonwealth's commitment to instructional quality is one of the goals of the new plan; and

WHEREAS, an assessment of Virginia's competitiveness in attracting and retaining faculty for public institutions of higher education is consistent with and complements the objectives of this goal, and such analysis would facilitate sound policy and fiscal decisions for the immediate and long-term benefit of students, the system of higher education, and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the State Council of Higher Education be requested to include in its current strategic planning initiative consideration of Virginia's competitiveness in attracting and retaining faculty for public institutions of higher education.

The State Council of Higher Education shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary and report of its progress in meeting the request of this resolution no later than the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary and report shall be submitted for publication as a report document 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.