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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 382
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 2, 2007)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Obenshain)

Directing the Crime Commission to study the efficiency of the summons form published by the Supreme Court of Virginia. Report.

WHEREAS, the current summons form published by the Supreme Court of Virginia, used to notify an accused of the name of the court where he is to appear and the date and time of the hearing, allows for only one charge per form; and

WHEREAS, in the case where a person is charged with multiple crimes, a separate summons form must be prepared by law-enforcement officers for each offense, and in doing so law-enforcement officers are obligated to repeat the entry of the information on each summons form for each charge; and

WHEREAS, the current summons form may create a situation where the law-enforcement officer's time is not being used efficiently, and further leads to the creation of excess paperwork; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Crime Commission be directed to study the efficiency of the summons form published by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

In conducting its study, the Crime Commission shall review the contents of the summons form published by the Supreme Court of Virginia and evaluate whether the current version, which allows only one charge to be listed per form, efficiently meets the needs of law-enforcement officers. During this evaluation, consideration should be given to ways in which the summons form could be amended to provide for greater efficiencies, including allowing multiple charges to be included on a single summons form.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Crime Commission by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Crime Commission for this study, upon request.

The Crime Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2007, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Crime 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.