

2008 SESSION

LEGISLATION NOT PREPARED BY DLS
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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 248

Offered January 18, 2008

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study and advance the development and enhancement of the biosciences and biotechnology in the Commonwealth. Report.

Patrons—Sickles and O'Bannon

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the biosciences broadly defined are producing advances in human knowledge beyond even our most recent optimistic predictions; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states to the Commonwealth as well as states around the United States are investing in bioscientific research, and have developed strategic plans for, among other things, higher education based research, public-private partnerships and venture capital incentives; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Commission on Biotechnology has laid the groundwork for a better understanding of the role of the disciplines; and

WHEREAS, future investment into biosciences and biotechnologies promise to yield improvements in the quality of life for Virginians as well as improve the lives of our fellow citizens across the Nation and the World; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study and advance the development and enhancement of the biosciences and biotechnology in the Commonwealth. The joint subcommittee shall review and implement appropriate and efficacious recommendations of state and national research investigations in these disciplines, including the Governor's Commission on Biotechnology. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 13 members that shall consist of eight legislative members, four nonlegislative citizen members, and one ex officio member.

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 represent Virginia's public research institutions of higher education; one nonlegislative citizen member who shall have expertise in local economic development and shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; one nonlegislative citizen member who shall represent the Center for Innovative Technology, and one shall represent the private biotechnology industry to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The Secretary of Technology or his designee shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. The subcommittee shall also ensure the participation and contribution of representatives of agricultural and tobacco interests, federal laboratories in Virginia involved in research and technology transfer in life sciences, and the not-for-profit life science and research institutions and laboratories in the Commonwealth to the work and deliberations of the subcommittee. These representatives shall not provide staffing services or have voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the Commission and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall be reimbursed only for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth 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.

Legislative members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall review, continue, and enlarge the work begun by the Governor's Commission on Biotechnology, including, but not limited to, determining how Virginia's research universities, federal and state laboratories, biotechnology incubators, research parks, private industry, and other major resources can be leveraged to help make Virginia a more attractive location for the development and enhancement of the biosciences and biotechnology industry.

The subcommittee shall also determine how these resources may increase the development of the biotechnology industry through technology transfer and commercialization of new ideas and discoveries. It will also assess how strategic initiatives in bioscience and biotechnology may generate economic development and investment in Virginia, particularly in rural and urban regions of the Commonwealth, as well as examine Virginia's workforce development status, including education, supply, and training

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59 needs relative to supporting viable bioscience research and biotechnology industry in the state.

60 Additionally, the subcommittee shall evaluate the capacity of bioscience and biotechnology to protect
61 and preserve Virginia's natural resources. It will also investigate innovative directions in bioscience,
62 including informational, technological, infrastructure, funding, long-term research goals, and regulatory
63 needs in areas such as biomedical research; genetic engineering; disease, growth and metabolism, and
64 development and reproduction in livestock, fish and food animals; agricultural biotechnology; and plant
65 diseases and insect pests. The subcommittee shall define and recommend the optimal climate that is
66 conducive to basic bioscientific and biotechnological research in Virginia. It will identify the type of
67 bioscience and biotechnology industries that the Commonwealth is positioned to attract, recruit, and
68 support due to the state's workforce, location, and other advantages.

69 The subcommittee will also seek to consider the work and recommendations of the Governor's
70 Commission on Biotechnology, together with other bodies of research on the application of the
71 biosciences and enhancement of the biotechnology industry, and develop and recommend a strategic and
72 visionary plan that implements certain of the recommendations deemed feasible and appropriate,
73 establishes Virginia as a national and global leader in bioscience and biotechnology research and
74 application by 2018, and enables the Commonwealth to maintain its national and global leadership
75 thereafter.

76 The subcommittee will submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report for
77 publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated
78 Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman shall submit to the
79 Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of
80 the Commission no later than the first day of November before each regular session of the General
81 Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided
82 in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative
83 documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

84 Finally, the subcommittee shall perform such other duties, functions, and activities as may be
85 necessary to facilitate and implement the objectives of this chapter.

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

91 The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2008 interim and four meetings for
92 the 2009 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed a reasonable amount, as determined
93 by the Senate Committee on Rules for each year without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval
94 for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of
95 the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk.

96 No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members
97 or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee vote against the
98 recommendation and vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint
99 subcommittee.

100 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 15, 2008, and for
101 the second year by November 15, 2009, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative
102 Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first
103 day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall
104 state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a
105 report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The
106 executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of
107 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be
108 posted on the General Assembly's website.

109 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
110 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or
111 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2008 or 2009
112 interim.