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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 72

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled January 4, 2008

*Establishing a joint subcommittee to study privatization of seaports in Virginia. Report.*

Patrons—Purkey and Hall

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the seaports of Virginia are major sources of employment and provide a stimulus for other economic activity not only in the localities wherein they are located but across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, recent years have seen an increase both in public-private partnerships and in direct privatization involving various forms of transportation and transportation programs; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships have shown they lead not only to improvements in service to the people and businesses of Virginia, but also to potential financial benefits through involvement of private capital and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, privatizations can result in a reduction in the need for the commitment of taxpayer dollars in transportation programs without any diminution of service, along with other benefits available to business and the general public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study privatization of seaports in Virginia. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 29 members that shall consist of 17 legislative members and 12 nonlegislative citizen members. Members shall be appointed as follows: 10 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; seven members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; four nonlegislative citizen members representing the port-oriented transportation business community to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, four nonlegislative citizen members representing the port-oriented transportation business community to be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate; and four nonlegislative citizen members representing the port-oriented transportation business community to be appointed by the Governor. 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:

1. Define privatization (i) by determining the form of privatization the ports of Virginia might and should take and (ii) by identifying private sector consultants to be involved who have expertise in port management operation, financing, asset evaluation, and other depth of knowledge vital to the study;

2. Identify potential funding sources for the study, realizing the magnitude and complexity of the study, including but not limited to the Virginia Port Authority, the U.S. Department of Defense, other federal departmental funds, private funding, state funding, and combinations of various other sources;

3. Form nonlegislatively and nongubernatorially appointed task forces to assist in the study, including every affected business sector; the federal, state and local government sectors; the Office of the Attorney General, and others; and

4. Evaluate existing operations and operators that will have beneficial consequences for competitiveness and long-term benefits to Virginia.

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 2008 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$21,800 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.

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

63 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2008, and the chairman shall  
64 submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and  
65 recommendations no later than the first day of the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The  
66 executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General  
67 Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or  
68 Senate document. The executive summary and the report shall be submitted as provided in the  
69 procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents  
70 and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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