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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 91

Offered January 9, 2008

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Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the partnership of Virginia's public and private institutions of higher education to address the Commonwealth's education and workforce needs. Report.

Patrons—Hamilton and Poisson

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, trends show an increasing demand for enrollment in the Commonwealth's public institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, the State Council of Higher Education projects that "between 2000 and 2010, undergraduate and graduate enrollment demand across Virginia's system of higher education, including public two- and four-year institutions, and private nonprofit and private for-profit institutions will increase by approximately 38,296 students, and of this number, public institutions will account for 83 percent of the increase or 31,611 students"; and

WHEREAS, the Council reported that "the demand for higher education is being driven by a significant increase in the number of 15 to 24 year olds, the traditional student base, and localities along the I-95/I-64 corridor in the eastern portion of the Commonwealth will be impacted, while the population of 25 to 44 year olds, the age group that drives nontraditional enrollments in Virginia institutions of higher education"; and

WHEREAS, "such institutions whose missions are primarily geared to serving traditional students that draw from the I-95/I-64 corridor in the eastern part of the Commonwealth are likely to experience the greatest increase in enrollment demand" and have no financial incentive to enroll out-of-state students; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth realizes substantial savings in general fund and capital expenditures with the enrollment of Virginia students in private institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, enrollment projections for 2007 through 2014 for public institutions of higher education indicate limited enrollment capacity for new, in-state undergraduate students, indicating a projected increase of 1,537 additional new spaces by 2014, while Virginia's private colleges and universities have an existing capacity to enroll more Virginia students; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 11 of the Virginia Constitution permits the Commonwealth to contract with private, nonprofit institutions of higher education for educational services; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's system of higher education consists of 39 public colleges and universities, 15 four-year institutions, 23 community colleges, one two-year college, and includes 31 private, nonprofit colleges and universities that serve 70,000 students and employs 15,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of nurses and classroom teachers are pressing concerns in the Commonwealth, and of the private institutions of higher education in Virginia, 24 institutions offer teacher preparation programs, and seven institutions offer nursing programs, conferring 31% of all four-year degrees in the health professions; and

WHEREAS, private colleges and universities have educated the Commonwealth's citizens since the 1700s and offer a variety of educational options, including four single-sex institutions, three historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), nationally ranked liberal arts colleges, and 17 institutions with graduate and professional programs; and

WHEREAS, African American students represent 21% and students who receive Pell Grants represent 28% of the students enrolled at private colleges and universities in Virginia, and the commitment to enhance access and affordability to higher education as detailed in the State Council of Higher Education's current strategic plan is embraced by all of Virginia's private institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 20,000 Virginia residents will be eligible to receive the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG), a tuition equalization program that represents less than five percent of the state's annual higher education budget; and

WHEREAS, it is important that public and private institutions of higher education plan collaboratively with the Commonwealth for this significant increase in college-bound students to provide for Virginia's educational and workforce needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the partnership of Virginia's public and private institutions of higher education to

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59 address the Commonwealth's education and workforce needs. The joint subcommittee shall have a total
60 membership of 15 members that shall consist of eight legislative members, four nonlegislative citizen
61 members, and three ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members of the
62 House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the
63 principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; three
64 members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; one nonlegislative citizen
65 member who shall represent a private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth, and one
66 nonlegislative citizen member at-large to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and
67 one nonlegislative citizen member who shall represent a public institution of higher education in the
68 Commonwealth, and one nonlegislative citizen member at-large to be appointed by the Senate
69 Committee on Rules. The Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and the
70 Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education or their designees shall serve ex officio
71 with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the
72 Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint
73 subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for
74 travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending
75 meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both
76 Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among
77 its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

78 In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall investigate opportunities for public and private
79 institutions of higher education to work collaboratively to address the projected enrollment demand. The
80 joint subcommittee shall (i) review and consider the findings and implications of the enrollment
81 projection report(s) by the State Council of Higher Education, (ii) determine current and projected
82 workforce demands and the educational support required by business and industry; (iii) evaluate the need
83 for change in institutional missions, programs and services, and fiscal and capacity requirements of the
84 system of higher education, in order that Virginia may meet current and projected higher educational
85 needs in the Commonwealth; (iv) develop alternatives and options to meet the projected enrollment
86 demand; (v) recommend ways in which public and private institutions of higher education may partner
87 with the Commonwealth to address the educational and workforce needs in Virginia; and (vi) consider
88 such other related matters as may be necessary to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the
89 implications of the projected enrollment demand.

90 Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates.
91 Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be
92 provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall be provided by the State
93 Council of Higher Education, and the staffs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate
94 Committee on Finance. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint
95 subcommittee for this study, upon request.

96 The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2008 interim and four meetings for
97 the 2009 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$ 9,600 for each year without
98 approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require
99 the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a
100 companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall
101 be required.

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

106 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2008, and for
107 the second year by November 30, 2009, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative
108 Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first
109 day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall
110 state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a
111 report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The
112 executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of
113 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be
114 posted on the General Assembly's website.

115 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
116 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or
117 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2008 and 2009
118 interims.