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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 97

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 10, 2012

*Requesting the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study management and structure of the Commonwealth's four regional higher education centers. Report.*

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Patrons—Merricks and Edmunds

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Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has four regional higher education centers: New College Institute; Roanoke Higher Education Center; Southern Virginia Higher Education Center; and Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the four regional higher education centers expand access to higher education in rural areas across the state by providing for adult and continuing education and degree-granting programs, including undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, through partnerships with the Commonwealth's public and private institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, regional higher education centers serve as a resource and referral center on existing educational programs and coordinate the development and delivery of continuing education programs offered by those educational institutions serving the region; and

WHEREAS, regional higher education centers facilitate the delivery of teacher training programs leading to licensure and graduate degrees, and coordinate the development and delivery of degree programs and other credit and noncredit courses with a focus on critical shortage areas and industry needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) be requested to study the management and structure of the Commonwealth's four regional higher education centers.

In conducting its study, SCHEV shall identify (i) best practices in the administration of higher education centers; (ii) opportunities for efficiency in the operation of higher education centers; and (iii) strategies that would ensure higher education centers meet statewide and regional goals. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall compare, among the regional higher education centers: the establishing statutory language; the composition of the governing bodies of such centers; management policies, processes, and structures of the regional higher education centers; and sources and uses of funding by such centers.

Technical assistance shall be provided to SCHEV by higher education centers and all public institutions of higher education. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to SCHEV for this study, upon request.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2012, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and 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 no later than the first day of the 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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