

2013 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 754

Designating the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as the official Executive Branch agency to assist the Commonwealth in establishing planning systems for commemorating in 2019 the 400th anniversary of landmark events in Virginia's history.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 25, 2013

Agreed to by the Senate, February 19, 2013

WHEREAS, created by the General Assembly in 1958, the Jamestown Foundation, now the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is charged with doing "all things necessary and proper to foster through its living-history museums, Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center, an awareness and understanding of the early history, settlement, and development of the United States through the convergence of American Indian, European, and African cultures and the enduring legacies bequeathed to the nation"; and

WHEREAS, from July 30 to August 4, 1619, twenty burgesses convened in the church at Jamestown, marking the beginning of representative government, based on English law and political institutions, in what is now the United States; and

WHEREAS, 2019 will mark the 400th anniversary of the meeting of the first representative legislative assembly in the New World, known then as the House of Burgesses and being the antecedent of today's Virginia General Assembly, the oldest legislative body in the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, 2019 will also mark the 400th anniversary of other milestones in Virginia's and the nation's history, including the arrival of the first Africans to British America, the Virginia Company of London's attempt to expand the colony by recruiting a group of single women to send to Virginia, and observance of a service of Thanksgiving held at Berkeley Plantation; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation has played a key role in assisting with special commemorations, including the 375th anniversary of the first legislative assembly in 1994 and the Jamestown quadricentennial in 2007; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia General Assembly designate the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as the official Executive Branch agency to assist the Commonwealth in establishing planning systems for commemorating in 2019 the 400th anniversary of landmark events in Virginia's history.

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