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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 537**

House Amendments in [ ] - February 9, 2015

*Requesting the Governor of the Commonwealth [ of Virginia ] to initiate a memorandum of agreement with the Governor of Maryland pertaining to the enforcement of laws involving the illegal trafficking of controlled substances across state lines.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Albo

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is incurring increasing legal and social costs associated with the illegal trafficking of controlled substances, including heroin and other opiates; and

WHEREAS, according to the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, there were 805 deaths from drug overdoses in 2012, and deaths from heroin overdose increased from 103 in 2011 to 197 in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the illegal trafficking of controlled substances in the Commonwealth frequently involves trafficking across state lines; and

WHEREAS, illegal drug trafficking affects all states, and the Superintendent of the Department of State Police has the statutory authority pursuant to § 52-8.1:1 of the Code of Virginia to enter into agreements with other states pertaining to the enforcement of laws involving controlled substances and the trafficking of such substances; and

WHEREAS, it would be to the mutual benefit of the Commonwealth and Maryland for the Superintendent to enter into such an agreement with Maryland, including an agreement to establish a joint task force, so as to better enable both states to effectively combat the illegal trafficking of controlled substances; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Governor of the Commonwealth [ of Virginia ] be requested to initiate a memorandum of agreement with the Governor of Maryland pertaining to the enforcement of laws involving the illegal trafficking of controlled substances across state lines; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor of the Commonwealth [ of Virginia ] and the Governor of Maryland so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

ENGROSSED

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