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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 97
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 19, 2016)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Yancey)

Requesting the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to study the Commonwealth's aerospace industry. Report.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is home to more than 265 aerospace firms due to a skilled workforce, strong economic growth, pro-business environment, and excellent quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's role in the aerospace industry dates from 1917, when the nation's first civil aeronautics laboratory, now known as the NASA Langley Research Center, was established in Hampton; and

WHEREAS, the aerospace industry is a driving force of the Commonwealth's economy, supplying jobs to 30,500 workers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Economic Development Partnership be requested to study the Commonwealth's aerospace industry.

In conducting its study, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership shall (i) analyze the potential advantages and disadvantages of eliminating taxation on aerospace and aviation parts and labor; (ii) gather information regarding opportunities in the Commonwealth related to maintenance and rehabilitation of aerospace equipment; (iii) recommend strategies to grow the Commonwealth's aerospace industry, attract new businesses, and improve the Commonwealth's economy; and (iv) consult with all relevant stakeholders.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership for this study, upon request.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2016, 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 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.