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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

Offered January 13, 2016

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*Directing the Commission on Youth to study expungement of juvenile court records. Report.*Patron—LockeReferred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Virginia law allows for expungement of juvenile court records in limited circumstances and for certain offenses; and

WHEREAS, once an adult, a criminal record may hamper employment in a job market where most employers require some kind of criminal record check; and

WHEREAS, there are some restrictions in Virginia law barring employment in certain fields, such as child and elder care, for conviction of certain crimes; and

WHEREAS, there is no clear understanding of what offenses disqualify persons from employment in general; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Commission on Youth be directed to study expungement of juvenile court records.

In conducting its study, the Commission on Youth shall assess the need to revise the expungement procedures under the Code of Virginia due to the impediments to employment the current formula presents to young adults with nonviolent juvenile misdemeanor convictions.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission on Youth for this study, upon request.

The Commission on Youth shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2016, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Commission on Youth intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor 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 and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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