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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 58

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 8, 2016

Continuing the Joint Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations for the Development of a Comprehensive and Coordinated Planning Effort to Address Recurrent Flooding as the joint subcommittee on coastal flooding. Report.

Patrons—Locke and Lewis

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 16 (2014) and Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 (2014) established the Joint Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations for the Development of a Comprehensive and Coordinated Planning Effort to Address Recurrent Flooding (the Joint Subcommittee); and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 50 (2012) and Senate Joint Resolution No. 76 (2012) directed the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to study strategies for adaptation to prevent recurrent flooding in Tidewater and Eastern Shore Virginia localities; and

WHEREAS, the resulting VIMS report, entitled "Recurrent Flooding Study for Tidewater Virginia," published as Senate Document 3 (2013), stated that recurrent flooding impacts all localities in Virginia's coastal zone and is predicted to become worse over reasonable planning horizons (20 to 50 years); and

WHEREAS, VIMS offered several recommendations, including that the Commonwealth, working with its coastal localities, (i) begin comprehensive and coordinated planning efforts; (ii) initiate identification, collection, and analysis of data needed to support effective planning for response efforts; and (iii) take a lead role in addressing recurrent flooding in Virginia for the following reasons: (a) accessing relevant federal resources for planning and mitigation may be enhanced through state mediation, (b) flooding problems are linked to water bodies and therefore often transcend locality boundaries, and (c) prioritizing flood management actions must be based in part on risk and, therefore, the Commonwealth must oversee the necessary studies to determine adaptation strategies as well as implementation of the agreed-upon strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study mandated by House Joint Resolution 132 (2012) and presented on October 15, 2013, entitled "Review of Disaster Preparedness Planning in Virginia," stated: "The state generally has strong disaster response plans, but deficiencies in evacuation and shelter plans may compromise the safety of the Hampton Roads population during a catastrophic disaster"; and

WHEREAS, the JLARC study further noted that if four key assumptions in the state's current evacuation plan do not hold, "timely hurricane evacuations could be compromised," placing citizens at risk after the storm; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Housing Commission studied this issue through its Housing and Environmental Standards Work Group and found that zoning, building codes, and planning issues will all be affected by recurrent flooding; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 16 (2014) and Senate Joint Resolution 3 (2014) established the Joint Subcommittee as recommended by the VIMS report; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee met four times during the 2014 interim to collect information from federal agencies, state agencies, localities, and stakeholders and to carry out its work; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee filed an Executive Summary with the General Assembly prior to the 2015 Session that included five initial recommendations to increase public awareness, improve local and state government agency resiliency coordination, and address floodplain management; and

WHEREAS, recommendations made by the Joint Subcommittee during the 2014 interim resulted in six bills passing the General Assembly during the 2015 Session, all with bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee met four times during the 2015 interim to collect information from federal agencies, state agencies, localities, and stakeholders and to carry out its work; and

WHEREAS, recommendations made by the Joint Subcommittee during the 2015 interim resulted in additional recommendations that are both legislative in nature and require additional coordination between federal agencies, state agencies, and higher education; and

WHEREAS, the members of the full Joint Subcommittee concurred that the Joint Subcommittee should be continued for two more years in order to keep the Commonwealth on the path of advancing Virginia as the coastal states leader in advancing resiliency strategies and, most importantly, protecting its citizens and business assets; and

INTRODUCED

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59 WHEREAS, to more accurately reflect its mission, the Joint Subcommittee would be more
60 appropriately named the joint subcommittee on coastal flooding; now, therefore, be it

61 RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee to
62 Formulate Recommendations for the Development of a Comprehensive and Coordinated Planning Effort
63 to Address Recurrent Flooding be continued as the joint subcommittee on coastal flooding. The joint
64 subcommittee shall have a total membership of 11 members that shall consist of five members of the
65 House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the
66 principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; three
67 members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; two nonlegislative citizen
68 members, one of whom shall be a business leader and one of whom shall be a representative of the
69 environmental community, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and one nonlegislative
70 citizen member who is a local official representing Virginia's flood-prone communities appointed by the
71 Senate Committee on Rules. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens
72 of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The current members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
73 Delegates shall be subject to reappointment. The current members appointed by the Senate Committee
74 on Rules shall continue to serve until replaced. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing
75 authority. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the
76 respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and
77 ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion
78 joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.
79 The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall
80 be members of the General Assembly.

81 In conducting its review, the joint subcommittee shall recommend short-term and long-term strategies
82 for minimizing the impact of recurrent flooding and coastal storms.

83 Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. Legal,
84 research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be provided by
85 the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall be provided by Virginia college and
86 university faculty with expertise in the subject matter. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide
87 assistance to the joint subcommittee for this review, upon request.

88 The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2016 interim and four meetings for
89 the 2017 interim, and the direct costs of this subcommittee shall not exceed \$17,440 for each year
90 without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses
91 shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective
92 Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both
93 Clerks shall be required.

94 No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members
95 or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the
96 recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the
97 joint subcommittee.

98 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2016, and for
99 the second year by November 30, 2017, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative
100 Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first
101 day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall
102 state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a
103 report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The
104 executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of
105 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be
106 posted on the General Assembly's website.

107 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
108 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for the joint subcommittee's
109 review, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the review, or authorize additional meetings during
110 the 2016 and 2017 interims.