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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 274

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 7, 2017

Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to review the Department of Elections Report.

Patron—Obenshain

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Elections is to promote and support accurate, fair, open, and secure elections for the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elections is responsible for the continuing operation and maintenance of the Virginia Election and Registration Information System, which contains voter registration records for over five million voters registered in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission conducted a special review of two specific issues in the Virginia Election and Registration Information System in 2008 but has never conducted a complete review of the system; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 542 of the Acts of Assembly of 2013, the Department of Elections underwent a reorganization that became effective on July 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission has not conducted a review of the Department of Elections, formerly known as the State Board of Elections, since 1999; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission be directed to review the Department of Elections.

In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall (i) review the Department's operations and expenditures, including its organizational structure, compensation, staffing, productivity, and efficiency; (ii) review the operation and functionality of VERIS, the state's online voter registration system; (iii) evaluate the costs of the continuing operation and maintenance of VERIS and whether such costs could be reduced by contracting with an outside vendor; and (iv) review any other issues and make recommendations as appropriate.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission by the Department of Elections. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission for this study, upon request.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2017, and the Director 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 2018 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission 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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