

2018 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 77 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules
on February 6, 2018)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Boysko)

Directing the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to request the Center for Innovative Technology to study the feasibility of a statewide dig once policy, including the installation of conduits with bridge and tunnel construction projects. Report.

WHEREAS, dig once policies seek to minimize the amount of excavation required to install infrastructure and facilitate access to rights-of-way for the purpose of expanding affordable access to broadband, especially in unserved or underserved areas of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, such policies may include provisions that require road construction projects to include the installation of oversized or open-access conduits to accommodate improved broadband installation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Secretary of Commerce and Trade be directed to request the Center for Innovative Technology to study the feasibility of a statewide dig once policy, including the installation of conduits with bridge and tunnel construction projects.

In conducting its study, the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) shall consult various stakeholders, such as the Virginia Broadband Advisory Council, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), telecommunication and cable providers, and utility providers. The CIT shall also examine the feasibility of a blanket policy for all nine VDOT districts.

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

The CIT shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2018, 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 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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