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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 277

Offered January 25, 1994

Requesting the Secretary of Education, in cooperation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to study the feasibility and costs of providing night classes for undergraduate and graduate level courses at Virginia's public institutions of higher education.

Patrons—Shuler, Behm, Bennett, Crouch, Heilig, Kilgore and Scott; Senator: Marye

Referred to Committee on Education

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's public institutions of higher education, committed to academic excellence, research, and service, have traditionally provided most undergraduate and graduate level courses during the daytime hours; and

WHEREAS, burgeoning enrollments and growing demands on the Commonwealth's budget will continue to challenge these public colleges and universities to develop innovative administrative practices that promote efficiency and cost-savings; and

WHEREAS, in challenging the Commonwealth's public colleges and universities to "consider alterations" to those administrative practices that may reflect "constraints of time and space that, in light of new technologies, may be more imagined than real," the Report of Virginia Commission on the University of the 21st Century noted that the adequacy and appropriateness of scheduling most classes in the morning had rarely been questioned; and

WHEREAS, while the adjustment of the class schedules may provide some institutions with much-needed flexibility to serve increasing enrollments and to accommodate those students who may have employment as well as academic obligations or who may wish to graduate on an accelerated basis, further study of potential financial and operational concerns is necessary to develop any recommendations for change ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the Secretary of Education, in cooperation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, be hereby requested to study the feasibility and costs of providing night classes for undergraduate and graduate level courses at Virginia's public institutions of higher education. The study shall include, among other things, a review of current administrative, fiscal, and operational constraints that may impede any adjustment to present class scheduling practices; consideration of enrollment projections at Virginia's public institutions; a survey of class scheduling practices employed by public institutions in other states; and recommendations for the implementation of any changes at the various public institutions that will promote efficiency and cost-savings as well as continued academic excellence.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Department of Education shall provide staff support for the study. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary, upon request. The Secretary and the State Council shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1995 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

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