

1994 SESSION

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 102

Offered January 25, 1994

Requesting the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to study barriers to the formation, financing and operation of women-owned businesses in Virginia.

Patrons—Woods and Stosch; Delegates: Albo, Almand, Callahan, Connally, Dillard, Fisher, Harris, Keating, Mayer, Mims, O'Brien, Puller, Scott and Wilkins

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, of the 147,000 business establishments in Virginia in 1989, small businesses owned over 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, small businesses have traditionally generated much of the economic growth and new jobs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the number of women-owned businesses in the Commonwealth has grown significantly, from about 57,000 in 1982 to almost 95,000 in 1987, an increase of 60 percent; and

WHEREAS, the receipts of these businesses rose by 240 percent over this period; and

WHEREAS, women-owned businesses are playing an increasingly vital role in Virginia's economy; and

WHEREAS, the growth of such businesses should be fostered and encouraged; and

WHEREAS, there remain many unnecessary hurdles and socioeconomic obstacles for women who own businesses, small businesses, in particular; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Commerce and Trade be requested to study the barriers to the formation, financing and operation of women-owned businesses in Virginia. The Secretary of Commerce and Trade shall place particular emphasis of the Commonwealth's laws, policies and procedures for qualifying as a women-owned business for purposes of state contracts for goods and services.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, upon request.

The Secretary of Commerce and Trade shall complete his work in time to submit his 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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