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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 475

House Amendments in [] — February 4, 1995

Requesting state and local governments to [~~develop and implement~~ consider development and implementation of] tree conservation and planting plans.

Patrons—Van Yahres, Almand, Cohen, Connally, Darner, Diamonstein, Grayson, Heilig, Plum, Thomas and Van Landingham

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, trees in towns and cities help to maintain a healthy environment for the citizens of the Commonwealth by minimizing erosion and sedimentation, moderating ambient temperature, preserving air quality, and reducing noise pollution; and

WHEREAS, trees are economically important to the communities which contain them because they increase property values and provide shading and wind obstruction which enhance energy conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, by providing wildlife habitat, trees help to maintain healthy wildlife populations and provide recreational benefits to the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, older, larger trees provide greater environmental, economic and habitat protection benefits than do younger, smaller trees; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing the above-described benefits, trees which are unique due to historic or cultural interest, or outstanding size and quality, having been designated as a special commemorating memorial, or which have been planted or placed in a street right-of-way or on private property by a local government, make significant contributions to the cultural and aesthetic character of the communities of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the presence of all trees, and especially unique trees, fosters civic pride and pleasure and provides opportunities for study of Virginia's natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, trees which are not regularly inspected and maintained are susceptible to diseases and insect infestations, causing death or posing dangers to persons and property; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That state and local governments be requested to [~~develop~~ consider development] and [~~implement~~ the implementation of] plans for maintaining and preserving the unique trees described above; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That state and local governments be requested to [~~develop~~ consider the development] and [~~implement~~ the implementation of] tree planting programs, the focus of which shall be to plant trees in locations and for purposes which will best serve future generations.

ENGROSSED

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