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LD6088464 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 528

Offered January 23, 1995

Requesting the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia to study students' access to required courses.

Patron—Tata

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Commonwealth has suffered fiscal exigencies; and

WHEREAS, these financial difficulties have necessitated large budget cuts in higher education; and WHEREAS, budget cuts and increasing costs have caused the public institutions of higher education to increase their tuition considerably; and

WHEREAS, parents and students should be able to expect that higher costs means more services, however, this has not been the case in many instances because the institutions are serving larger populations; and

WHEREAS, because of reduced funding, colleges and universities have sometimes found it necessary to limit the number of times classes are offered; and

WHEREAS, limitations on classes while student populations increase can only mean that some students will not be able to get into classes when they need or want to; and

WHEREAS, when a student cannot register for a class needed for graduation during his junior or senior year, the entire schedule for his academic career can be displaced; and

WHEREAS, students can experience delays in graduation because of not being able to enroll in a required class, thus causing his parents greater expense for his education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia be requested to study students' access to required courses. In its study, the Council is requested to assess whether this problem of insufficient class availability is restricted only to certain institutions of higher education or whether the issue is pervasive in Virginia's system. The Council is also asked to recommend steps to remediate or avoid the worsening of this problem.

The Council shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1996 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.