HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 571

Requesting the Department of Motor Vehicles to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a provisional licensing program for juveniles in the Commonwealth.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 23, 1995
Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 1995

WHEREAS, highway crash injury and fatality rates both nationwide and in the Commonwealth of Virginia have decreased significantly in recent years; and

WHEREAS, such crash rates for juveniles in the Commonwealth, contrary to the general trend, are continuing to increase; and

WHEREAS, recently released statistics reveal that the use of alcohol and other intoxicants is increasing at an alarming rate among juveniles; and

WHEREAS, the fact that juveniles are the least experienced drivers on our highways which, combined with their unfamiliarity with the consequences of alcohol and other intoxicant use, has resulted in such drivers accounting for a disproportionately high rate of automobile accidents; and

WHEREAS, a number of states have been successful in reducing injuries to and deaths of juveniles on their highways by the implementation of various provisional licensing programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Motor Vehicles be requested to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a provisional licensing program for juveniles in the Commonwealth.

This study shall include (i) a review of the experiences of other states which have implemented such programs, (ii) a review of the effectiveness of Virginia's use of restricted licenses, and (iii) recommendations as to how a provisional licensing program should be fashioned to best meet the needs of the Commonwealth.

The Department 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 the processing of legislative documents.