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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 605

Offered January 23, 1995

Requesting the Department of Housing and Community Development to study the need to establish some form of oversight of redevelopment and housing authorities.

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Patron—Wagner

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Referred to Committee on Rules

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WHEREAS, redevelopment and housing authorities (RHAs) are established pursuant to Chapter 1 (§ 36-1 et seq.) of Title 36 of the Code of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the purpose for creating RHAs as political subdivisions of the Commonwealth is to provide safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for person of low income; and

WHEREAS, RHAs enjoy broad public and corporate powers, including the power to acquire, lease, and operate housing projects, to sue and be sued, to invest funds held in reserves or sinking funds, to make loans or grants for the prevention and elimination of slum or blighted areas, and to acquire through eminent domain any real property which may be necessary to carry out it duties; and

WHEREAS, RHAs have significant, although unchecked, powers over citizens living in RHA areas of operation; and

WHEREAS, the people least able to protect their rights against the abuses of government are those subject to the authority of RHAs, and in many cases, these people are left without a right of an administrative or other appeal from actions of RHAs which adversely affect them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Housing and Community Develop be requested to study the need to establish some form of oversight over redevelopment and housing authorities.

The Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide staff support for the study. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department, upon request.

The Department of Housing and Community Development 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.

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