

1995 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 619

Offered January 23, 1995

Requesting the creation of a joint subcommittee to study the feasibility of establishing a Virginia False Claims Act.

Patron—Scott

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, there are persons who present false or fraudulent claims to obtain payments of money or other approvals from the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, there are persons who use false statements and records to avoid obligations to pay money to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the resources available to state agencies to detect fraudulent activity against the Commonwealth could be supplemented through the active involvement of citizens in such detection efforts; and

WHEREAS, the encouragement of citizen involvement in bringing such fraudulent claims and activities to the attention of law enforcement officials through a federal False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq.) has proven effective in combating fraud against the federal government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a five-member joint subcommittee be established to study the feasibility and need for a Virginia False Claims Act. The study shall include an assessment of the effectiveness of efforts by the federal government and other state governments to encourage citizen involvement in combating fraud against the government; the process of integrating such citizen efforts with the work of the Attorney General and other state agencies; and the desirability and means of creating financial incentives to encourage such citizen involvement.

The membership of the study shall be appointed as follows: three members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker, and two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$2,250.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study and assistance shall be provided by all agencies of the Commonwealth, upon request.

The joint subcommittee 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.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

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