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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 640

Offered January 23, 1995

Establishing a joint subcommittee to examine the need for establishing an authority to build and maintain the Virginia Geographic Information Network.

Patron—Murphy

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, in 1989, the General Assembly established the Commission on Population Growth and Development and charged it with studying and developing a vision for the future of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Commission subsequently found that much of the information it needed to answer questions and make decisions was unavailable, inaccessible, or inadequate; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly directed the Commission to develop, in conjunction with the Council on Information Management, a strategy for the statewide coordination of a comprehensive data collection system; and

WHEREAS, the Commission received in August of 1993 a report, "Virginia Geographic Information Network: Situation Assessment and Strategic Recommendations," from its consultant, PlanGraphics, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Commission reported these findings and its recommendations to the General Assembly in its report, "Virginia Geographic Information Network, Proposal for Legislative Action"; and

WHEREAS, both reports recommended the creation of the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN); and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the General Assembly appropriated \$1.1 million and directed the Department of Planning and Budget to begin the phased implementation of VGIN; and

WHEREAS, VGIN is intended to include the development of a 1:12,000 scale digital base map for Virginia, with five priority data layers, and to support a geographic information systems management unit to coordinate state, local, and regional governments and private sector groups in collecting, maintaining, and disseminating information and sharing geographic data; and

WHEREAS, the role of the private sector in developing and maintaining such a system has not been adequately examined; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships can often more efficiently, effectively, and quickly meet the needs of both the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the products and services created and provided through VGIN will have considerable market value in the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, even more diligence and speed are needed to establish VGIN for the citizens of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to examine the creation of a Virginia Geographic Information Network Authority to build and maintain the VGIN system as recommended by the Commission on Population Growth and Development.

This study shall include, but not be limited to (i) a market analysis and financial feasibility study for the establishment and maintenance of a VGIN authority, (ii) examination of opportunities for investment and financing of the work of such an authority, (iii) examination of the development of regulations for the use, access, and dissemination of network information, and (iv) examination of copyright restrictions, Freedom of Information Act requirements, and intellectual property issues regarding geographic information.

The joint subcommittee shall be composed of six members as follows: three members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. The Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, or his designee, shall serve as an ex-officio member of the joint subcommittee. In addition, the joint subcommittee shall seek the participation of representatives from local governments, the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, representatives of the private sector with expertise in geographic information systems, and representatives of the Commonwealth's universities with operating geographic information systems.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$3,750. Other costs of this study, not to exceed \$50,000, shall be borne by the Department of Planning and Budget from the second-year funding of the Virginia Geographic Information Network.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance

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60 shall be provided by the Department of Planning and Budget. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall
61 provide assistance to the joint subcommittee upon request.
62 The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations
63 to the Governor and the 1996 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the
64 Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.
65 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
66 Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the
67 study.