

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 275

Continuing the Joint Subcommittee Studying Potential Sources of Reliable Funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 23, 1995

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 22, 1995

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution 18, adopted by the 1994 Session of the General Assembly, established a joint subcommittee to study sources of reliable funding for soil and water conservation districts; and

WHEREAS, soil and water conservation districts in Virginia conduct essential programs for the prevention and control of nonpoint source pollution of water; and

WHEREAS, districts offer the Commonwealth a unique, decentralized mechanism for offering land users financial and technical assistance aimed at protecting water quality and conserving the soil; and

WHEREAS, during its first year of deliberations, the joint subcommittee received testimony which indicated that the FY 1994 funding for district activities from local, state, and federal sources totaled approximately \$3.4 million; and

WHEREAS, preliminary figures appear to confirm funding needs which are in excess of current funding levels; and

WHEREAS, the joint subcommittee is currently engaged in more precisely documenting the specific areas of need; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate roles of the state, federal, and local governments in providing an adequate level of funding are still being investigated by the joint subcommittee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee Studying Potential Sources of Reliable Funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts be continued for the purpose of (i) examining the financial needs of soil and water conservation districts and (ii) recommending reliable sources of funding. The current members of the joint subcommittee shall continue to serve, with any vacancies to be filled in accordance with the original resolution.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$5,250.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be continued for one year only and shall complete its work in time to submit its final 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.

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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