

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 314

Urging the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations which would prohibit the licensure of burley tobacco auction warehouses under the United States Warehouse Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 241-273 (1992).

Agreed to by the Senate, February 20, 1995
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 16, 1995

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has traditionally regulated the maximum charges allowed for the auction sale of burley tobacco; and

WHEREAS, the former Secretary of Agriculture, the Honorable Mike Espy, in the fall of 1993 issued burley auction warehouses in Virginia licenses to operate as storage warehouse facilities under the United States Warehouse Act, thereby circumventing state law; and

WHEREAS, this action cost Virginia burley producers more than \$372,000 in additional fees for the sale of the 1993 crop and likely, similar amounts for the sale of the 1994 crop; and

WHEREAS, growers received no additional services for the additional costs incurred; and

WHEREAS, since storage at the burley auction warehouses is incidental to the flooring and subsequent sale of the tobacco, licensure as a storage warehouse facility under the United States Warehouse Act is inappropriate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Agriculture be urged to act expeditiously in promulgating regulations which would prohibit the licensure of burley auction warehouses as storage warehouse facilities under the United States Warehouse Act and, therefore, return the Commonwealth to its former position in the regulation of burley auction warehouses; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

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