

# 1995 SESSION

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 322

Offered January 23, 1995

*Acknowledging the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety and encouraging local governments, non-profit organizations, and the private sector who maintain public playgrounds to adopt the Commission's guidelines.*

Patrons—Houck, Holland, C.A., Howell and Miller, Y.B.; Delegates: Bloxom, Jones, J.C., Orrock, Puller and Van Landingham

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 620 adopted by the 1993 Regular Session of the General Assembly requested that the Board of Education develop playground safety guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the final report submitted to the General Assembly in response to this request recommended the adoption of the current guidelines for public playgrounds developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for local government operated school systems; and

WHEREAS, a review of injuries sustained on public playgrounds in the Commonwealth shows a significant number of injuries requiring medical attention reported each year; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that there were an estimated 284,827 injuries treated in hospital rooms related to playground equipment; and

WHEREAS, a 1992 report of the Virginia Department of Education indicated that the prevalence of fall-related injuries, especially those resulting in a head injury, demonstrate the need for resilient playground surfaces with regular maintenance; and

WHEREAS, national standards exist from various federal testing agencies, and playground safety guidelines have been developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; and

WHEREAS, while significant progress has been made in accommodating children with disabilities in public buildings, public playgrounds remain largely unchanged and unmodified for disabled students; and

WHEREAS, a 1994 study conducted by the Virginia Department of Education recommended to the General Assembly that state guidelines should be established to improve playground safety; and

WHEREAS, local government and the private sector are liable for injuries resulting from unsafe and hazardous playground equipment maintained by them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby acknowledge the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety and encourage local governments, non-profit organizations, and the private sector who maintain public playgrounds to adopt these guidelines and to keep abreast of any future guidelines that may be developed by the Commission; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the executive directors of the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Schools, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Virginia Association of Realtors, requesting that they send a copy of this resolution to their appropriate members in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

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