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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 343

Senate Amendments in [] — February 7, 1995

Expressing the sense of the General Assembly in support of the use of state and local vacant land for gardening by families and senior citizens.

Patrons—Miller, Y.B., Lambert, Lucas, Marsh and Maxwell; Delegates: Christian, Crittenden, Cunningham, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Melvin, Robinson and Spruill

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, various state agencies, departments and political subdivisions hold title to land that is currently vacant and unused; and

WHEREAS, such land may be put to temporary and productive use to assist Virginia's families and senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, many families and senior citizens would like to supplement their diets with healthful, nutritious and fresh garden produce; and

WHEREAS, gardening can provide enjoyment, relaxation and stress-reduction benefits at a low cost while aerating and enriching the soil; and

WHEREAS, the act of tending a garden on vacant land may discourage littering, vandalism and other destructive misuses of public property; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That state agencies, departments and political subdivisions be encouraged to make vacant lands available to families and senior citizens for the purpose of gardening until such time as the property is put to a more permanent use; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Virginia Cooperative Extension be requested to provide coordination and technical assistance to Virginia agencies and political subdivisions for the purpose of encouraging family and senior citizen gardening of vacant land; and be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to Virginia agencies [and political subdivisions and to], the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, and] the Virginia Cooperative Extension to apprise them of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

ENGROSSED

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