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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 352

Offered January 23, 1995

*Continuing the Select Committee of the Senate Committee on Finance, the Committee on House Appropriations and the Commission on Equity in Public Education to study educational technology funding.*

Patrons—Andrews and Schewel

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, established pursuant to SJR 157 of 1994, the select committee began its study with an exacting schedule, including site visits to an older high school which had been renovated for technology and a new middle school which was built to accommodate advanced educational technology; and

WHEREAS, the select committee's 1994 objectives included examination of educational technology in the Commonwealth and other states; and

WHEREAS, the select committee has been briefed on various public/private partnership initiatives in Virginia, certain Virginia school divisions' programs, other states' technology funding strategies and retrofit plans, and has received expert opinions and studies on the value of educational technology in improving learning; and

WHEREAS, the select committee has reviewed Virginia's educational technology funding history and the status of current programs and has identified certain issues requiring long-term examination and monitoring; and

WHEREAS, examples of these issues are strategies to accommodate the costs of phone lines, building retrofits, and expansion of the Virginia Public Education Network (VaPEN), the statewide network funded by the Commonwealth, which may be accessed by any Virginia educator without cost; and

WHEREAS, although anecdotal accounts substantiate the benefits of education technology in enhancing learning and improving achievement among all kinds of students, the costs per student are still high and empirical data has only recently been documented; and

WHEREAS, the select committee has come to believe that educational technology will evolve to become one of the most important factors in seeking to provide a quality education for Virginia's students in the 21st century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Select Committee of the Senate Finance Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Commission Equity in Public Education to study the funding and dissemination of education technology in the Commonwealth be hereby continued. The members duly appointed pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 157 of 1994 shall continue to serve, except that any vacancies shall be filled as provided in the enabling resolution. Staffing shall continue to be provided by the Commission.

In its deliberations, the select committee shall consider: (i) the revision of the Six-Year Plan for Technology currently being developed by the Department of Education, including costs, implementation strategies, and potential effects on at-risk children and economically stressed and rural school divisions; (ii) educational technology training and professional development; (iii) the VaPEN services, including the current moratorium on certain new users; (iv) Internet access among the several school divisions; (v) electronic reference resources for elementary school library media centers; (vi) distance learning, including digital broadcast and two-way video; (vii) and ways to leverage cooperative private and public educational technologies which encourage business, community, local school board, and local government interaction.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the select committee, upon request. The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$5,400.

The select committee shall complete its work in time to submit its 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 processing 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.

INTRODUCED

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