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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 369

Offered January 23, 1995

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study incentives to promote economic development in the Commonwealth.

Patrons—Hawkins, Bell, Calhoun, Colgan, Holland, C.A., Holland, E.M., Holland, R.J., Nolen and Robb; Delegates: Albo, Callahan, Cantor, Crouch, Dudley, Fisher, Harris, Ingram, Kilgore, McClure, Morgan, Nixon, Parrish, Purkey, Ruff and Wilkins

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, competition among states and localities for business expansion and relocation projects has become increasingly intense during the past decade; and

WHEREAS, in order to successfully attract and retain these projects, state and local governments have created a variety of incentives to encourage companies to locate or remain in a particular area; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has also created several tax relief and grant policies to foster growth in economically disadvantaged localities; and

WHEREAS, incentive packages offered to business have become an important factor to many companies concerning where a relocation or expansion will occur; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the perceived importance of incentives, the number of incentives offered and the cost of these incentives to state and local governments continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has undertaken several studies to examine the costs and benefits of particular incentives; and

WHEREAS, none of these studies have effectively examined the incentives currently offered by the state to determine their effectiveness and to ensure that they are being targeted most efficiently; and

WHEREAS, "Opportunity Virginia: A Strategic Plan for Jobs and Prosperity" identified the need for a comprehensive study of incentives to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, there are additional economic development incentives which require further study before being implemented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study incentives to promote economic development. The joint subcommittee shall conduct a comprehensive study examining the following: (i) various initiatives offered by the state to attract and retain businesses in the Commonwealth in order to promote job creation and investment in our communities; (ii) the powers of the proposed Virginia Economic Development Partnership and (a) whether it should be directly involved in assisting with site and project development and (b) what its role should be with managing state incentives; and (iii) alternative incentive strategies to better utilize existing resources and new incentives.

The joint subcommittee shall be composed of 13 members as follows: three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; two members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; the Secretary of Commerce and Trade; the Secretary of Finance; and six members appointed by the Governor.

The Department of Economic Development will provide staff support to the subcommittee. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall, upon request, assist the subcommittee in conducting this study.

The direct cost of this study shall not exceed \$7,500.

The subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1996 General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Services 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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