

1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Offered January 10, 1996

Requesting the Commission on Family Violence Prevention to study the need for enhanced training for magistrates in the handling of family abuse cases.

Patrons—Thomas, Cranwell, Shuler, Van Landingham and Woodrum

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, 17.4 percent of the homicides occurring in Virginia in 1994 involved victims who were family members or a boy friend or girl friend of the killer; and

WHEREAS, an accused is presumed innocent and, unless found to pose an unreasonable risk of harm to himself or others or to be unlikely to appear at trial, may be released on bail pending trial; and

WHEREAS, the complex interpersonal dynamics of family violence cases make the initial release determinations extraordinarily difficult; and

WHEREAS, additional training and exposure to the sensitive issues involved in these types of cases are needed to ensure the safety of vulnerable family members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Commission on Family Violence Prevention, with appropriate assistance from the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, evaluate the training currently provided to bail officers and make recommendations for improving the training in order to enhance the ability of these officers to deal more effectively with cases involving violence directed at family or household members.

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