

1996 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 124

Offered January 22, 1996

Requesting the Department of Education, in conjunction with the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia, to study the incorporation of environmental education in elementary and secondary education and teacher education curricula.

Patron—Puller

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, education leaders estimate a 75% turnover rate for public school teachers by the year 2005 while, at the same time, environmental experts contend that society has 20 to 40 years to make the changes necessary to ensure an environmentally sound and sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, we must act now to ensure that the next generation of teachers and decision makers have the knowledge, skills, and awareness necessary to move society onto an environmentally sound and sustainable path; and

WHEREAS, several studies have shown that most teachers do not have the background nor appropriate materials needed to teach about the environment and that teacher preparation programs frequently do not include environmental education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Education, in conjunction with the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia, be requested to conduct a study on how to include environmental education in the curriculum for grades kindergarten through 12 and how to include environmental education in teacher preparation programs.

The Department of Education shall complete its study in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1997 Session of the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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