

1996 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 127

Offered January 22, 1996

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the impact of the reorganization of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on certain programs and their ability to provide effective customer services.

Patrons—Deeds and Van Yahres

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1995, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) implemented a new organizational structure; and

WHEREAS, under the reorganization, six divisions were consolidated into the Divisions of Consumer Protection, Animal Industry Services, and Marketing; and

WHEREAS, the new consolidation of divisions and functions has been implemented ostensibly to improve efficiency and effectiveness, by streamlining operations and reducing management and supervisory layers; and

WHEREAS, customers of the agency have raised concerns as to whether the recent reorganization will enable the Department to continue to provide the needed level of services, especially in light of a significant downsizing of VDACS over the last decade; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the impact of the reorganization of VDACS on certain programs and their ability to provide effective customer services. The study shall examine:

1. The staffing needs and operations of the Office of Consumer Affairs;
2. The advisability of moving the Office of International Marketing from VDACS to the newly formed Economic Development Partnership;
3. Whether the testing of seed should remain a state function or should be privatized; and
4. Whether VDACS is the appropriate agency to regulate aquaculture in Virginia.

The joint subcommittee shall consist of seven members as follows: four from the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three from the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$5,250.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1997 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.

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