

# 1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

967160152

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Offered January 10, 1996

*Requesting that the Virginia Retirement System study the feasibility of providing retirement benefits to or establishing a retirement fund for volunteer firefighters and rescue squad personnel.*

Patrons—Clement, Abbitt, Armstrong, Bennett, Deeds, Dickinson, Grayson, Jackson, Jones, J.C., Phillips, Reynolds, Shuler, Stump and Tate

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters and rescue squad personnel provide a valuable service in the community and work many long hours to assist individuals in various types of emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers are not eligible to receive retirement benefits for their time spent in community service; and

WHEREAS, concern has been expressed regarding the possibility of providing retirement benefits to these volunteers, the manner in which these benefits may accrue, and an appropriate source of funding; and

WHEREAS, other states, including North Carolina, provide retirement benefits to these volunteers, thereby helping to maintain a stable community volunteer rescue squad and firefighter force; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Retirement System previously conducted a study, directed by Senate Joint Resolution No. 30 (1986) on these issues; and

WHEREAS, the results of the study were published in Senate Document No. 8 (1987); and

WHEREAS, nearly a decade has passed since the initial study was conducted; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Retirement System is requested to study the feasibility of providing retirement benefits to or establishing a retirement fund for volunteer firefighters and rescue squad personnel. Upon request, all agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the study.

The Virginia Retirement System shall complete its work in time to submit a report of 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.

INTRODUCED

HJ14