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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 147

Offered January 22, 1996

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the solicitation of charitable contributions.

Patrons—Purkey, Croshaw, Drake, McDonnell and Rollison

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the generosity and civic-mindedness of Virginians enriches our communities and contributes to the health, safety and well-being of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the trust of contributors that their contributions are necessary and will be used for the purposes for which they were solicited should be safeguarded; and

WHEREAS, numerous questions have arisen regarding the fundraising practices of several charitable and civic organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the solicitation of charitable contributions in the Commonwealth. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the fundraising activities of law enforcement, fire-fighting, and rescue squad organizations; the percentage of contributions applied to the activities for which they were solicited and the percentage applied to further fundraising and administrative expenses; the current degree of compliance with existing laws and regulations governing charitable solicitations; and the adequacy of current law and regulation governing charitable solicitations.

The subcommittee shall be composed of five members who shall be appointed as follows: two members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; one representative of the Consumer Affairs Division of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to be appointed by the Governor; and one citizen member knowledgeable about charitable solicitations and consumer affairs, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$2,750.

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 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.

INTRODUCED

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