

1996 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 224
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules
on February 9, 1996)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Callahan)

Requesting the Department of General Services to study the feasibility and desirability of leasing state-owned properties to wireless telecommunications providers.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia owns property which could be leased over a period of years for substantial sums to wireless telecommunications providers; and

WHEREAS, property along highway rights-of-way, parks and recreation areas, state police facilities, universities and colleges, and other government institutions could be considered for such siting; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of state-owned properties could expand access to this new and vital technology for the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, it would minimize the need to place these monopole antennas in residential communities, thereby alleviating aesthetic, safety, and environmental concerns; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly should consider and adopt a policy in response to this opportunity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of General Services be requested to study the feasibility and desirability of leasing state-owned properties to wireless telecommunications providers. The Department shall examine: (i) whether to authorize the leasing of such properties for the siting of mobile service antennas and, if so, how to ensure equal access to all service providers; (ii) how to coordinate zoning and other land use control ordinances with local governments; (iii) the role of utility companies in locating antennas atop utility poles; and (iv) the feasibility of siting alternatives to mitigate the negative visual impact of these structures.

Technical assistance shall be provided by the State Corporation Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department, upon request.

The Department 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.

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