

1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

967426297

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 235

Offered January 22, 1996

Requesting the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the Fair Housing Office of the Real Estate Board.

Patrons—Hull; Senator: Gartlan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Virginia Fair Housing Law is established in Chapter 5.1 of Title 36 of the Code of Virginia to prevent discriminatory housing practices; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Office of the Real Estate Board has been given the responsibility of receiving and investigating complaints; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Office received and investigated 209 complaints in fiscal year 1994, more than double the number of complaints in fiscal year 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Office employs seven full-time employees, four of whom are based in the Richmond office, and three of whom conduct investigations statewide; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Fair Housing Law requires the agency to pursue prompt action on behalf of its citizens and the administration of this law must be as effective as comparable federal programs in order to avoid a federal takeover of the state program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission be requested to study the operations of the Virginia Fair Housing Office and to make recommendations about the appropriate allocation of resources and staff. The study shall consider the case load of the office, the time required to settle cases, the adequacy of staffing and staff training, and such other issues as may be appropriate.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete the study 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.

INTRODUCED

HJ235