

# 1996 SESSION

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 92

Offered January 19, 1996

*Requesting the Virginia State Crime Commission to study the formation, existence, and growth of youth gangs in Virginia.*

Patrons—Almand, Behm, Brickley, Connally, Croshaw, Diamonstein, Hull and Moran

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has experienced an increase in localized, illegal gang-related activities ranging in severity from petty offenses to "drive-by" murders; and

WHEREAS, at least twenty four gangs are known to operate within the Commonwealth, and

WHEREAS, some gang-related activity is a by-product of the immigration of gang members from other areas of the country where gangs are methodically organized and entrenched, such as: New York, Philadelphia; and Washington, D.C., and

WHEREAS, the exact nature and extent of the birth, growth, membership and organization of these gangs is unknown, and

WHEREAS, the issues concerning the type of organization and development of these gangs, and the degree to which these gangs contribute to the ever-increasing blight that criminal activity leaves upon our beloved Commonwealth, may require further consideration, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the State Crime Commission be directed to study the prevalence, organization, growth, development, and degree of involvement in criminal activities of gangs throughout this Commonwealth, to study the methods and procedures used by other states to deal with their gang problems, to determine how to reduce or eliminate gangs in the Commonwealth, and to develop appropriate recommendations and funding proposals to implement such recommendations.

The Commission shall be assisted by the agencies, representatives of state and local law enforcement agencies, and the courts of this Commonwealth.

The Commission shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1997 General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

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