

1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

963375140

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

Offered January 22, 1996

Requesting the House Committee on Rules to study the feasibility of broadcasting the proceedings of the House of Delegates by television.

Patrons—Bryant, Baker, Callahan, Cantor, Cox, Crouch, Drake, Dudley, Forbes, Griffith, Ingram, Katzen, Kilgore, Landes, McDonnell, McEachin, Mims, O'Brien, Reid, Rollison, Sherwood, Tate, Wardrup, Watts, Way, Weatherholtz and Wilkins

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, an informed electorate is the best guarantee of democracy; and

WHEREAS, the public benefits from ready access to and knowledge about the operations of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, the United State Congress and several states now broadcast all or a part of the proceedings of one or both houses of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, televised broadcasts of the proceedings of the House of Delegates would serve as an educational resource for the students and the taxpayers of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, live television broadcast of the House of Delegates would allow the citizenry wide access and timely information to facilitate more representative government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the House Rules Committee or a subcommittee of the House Rules Committee is hereby requested to study the feasibility of establishing full television broadcast coverage of the House of Delegates through the office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. The study shall consult, among others, the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the Department of Information Technology, and the Virginia Public Telecommunications Board. The study shall consider the type of systems necessary to provide a broadcast signal, who should control the signal, the use of satellite uplinking as a method of distributing the broadcast signal, access channels to the broadcast signal, funding of the broadcast system, and such other issues as may be appropriate.

The Division of Legislative Services, the House Clerk's office, and the staff of the House Appropriations Committee shall provide staff support for the study.

The House Rules Committee 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.

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