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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 92

Offered January 22, 1996

Establishing an advisory committee to study and make recommendations on intergovernmental coordination and planning in the Rappahannock River Basin.

Patrons—Houck, Bolling and Chichester; Delegates: Davies, Howell, Morgan, Murphy and Orrock

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock River is a resource of great value to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to each of the localities within the Rappahannock River Basin; and

WHEREAS, cooperation between the localities of the basin is important to the economic vitality and appropriate development of the region; and

WHEREAS, coordination between the local and regional planning for the future of the area will aid in protecting the assets of the river and in strengthening the economic health of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock River Basin Region is defined as the 2,848 square miles primarily within the four Planning Districts of RADCO, Rappahannock-Rapidan, Northern Neck, and Middle Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, this region is characterized by areas of rapid growth linked together by one of the Commonwealth's cleanest and most scenic rivers; and

WHEREAS, since activities in one part of the basin affect other parts of the basin, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to encourage and support basin-wide regional cooperation; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Commonwealth and each of the Basin's localities to discuss the creation of a regional body to assist the Commonwealth and the localities in planning for the future of the Region; and

WHEREAS, local governing bodies regularly face decisions that can impact other localities within the basin; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a one-year advisory panel be established to study, evaluate, and make recommendations on potential structures and goals of a mechanism to address coordination, communication, and strategic planning on issues of basin-wide significance. The panel shall consist of one member of the governing body from each County and City within the Basin, who shall be selected by the local governing body, and the members of the Senate and the House of Delegates whose districts include a portion of the basin.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$ 20,000.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical and logistical assistance shall be provided by the Planning District Commissions from the Rappahannock River Basin. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the advisory committee, upon request.

The advisory 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 processing 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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