

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 1997 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 445

Requesting the Board of Professional and Occupational Regulation to evaluate the need for and recommend the degree of regulation of court reporters, if any, and the licensing of court reporters.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 20, 1997

Agreed to by the Senate, February 19, 1997

WHEREAS, while the actual number of court reporters is unknown, it is estimated that there are 600 court reporters who offer their services in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of this number are members of professional associations, including the Virginia Court Reporter Association and the Tri-State Verbatim Stenomask Reporters Association, which strive to ensure the skill and integrity of their profession; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the services provided by court reporters in civil, criminal and other cases cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is one of the few states in the United States which do not have official court reporters; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Professional and Occupational Regulation is authorized by § 54.1-310 of the Code of Virginia to evaluate professions and occupations not regulated in the Commonwealth, consider whether such professions and occupations should be regulated, and make recommendations as the public interest requires concerning such regulation to the General Assembly; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Board of Professional and Occupational Regulation be requested to evaluate the need for and recommend the degree of regulation of court reporters, if any, and the licensing of court reporters in the Commonwealth.

The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation shall provide staff support for the study. All other agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Board, upon request.

The Board shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1998 Session of the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

Implementation of this resolution shall be subject to the Board's ability to obtain sufficient funding to conduct this study, estimated to be \$6,000, from the Virginia Supreme Court and Virginia Court Reporter Association. Funding transferred from the Virginia Supreme Court shall not exceed \$5,000.

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