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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 489

House Amendments in [ ] — January 30, 1997

[ ~~Establishing a joint subcommittee~~ Requesting the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries ] to study options for controlling the deer population in urban and suburban areas.

Patron—Callahan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Virginia's deer population is high and will continue to increase at a high rate; and  
WHEREAS, the explosion of the deer population is not statewide but rather appears to be occurring in selective areas; and

WHEREAS, as people move further from the central cities, less habitat is available for the deer population; and

WHEREAS, the presence of deer in the more populated areas of the state has resulted in damage to landscapes, crops and other property; and

WHEREAS, the presence of deer in the more populated areas of the state has also resulted in an increasing number of deer/vehicle collisions, and greater threats to public health; and

WHEREAS, hunting has been the traditional method for controlling the deer population; and

WHEREAS, other options are available, such as birth control, trap and transfer, managed hunts, and out-of-season kill permits, which may enable deer and people to co-exist; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That [ a joint subcommittee be established the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries be requested ] to study options for controlling the deer population in urban and suburban areas. [ The joint subcommittee shall be composed of eight members, which shall include five legislative members and three nonlegislative citizen members, as follows: three members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; two citizen members, one of whom shall be a veterinarian and one of whom shall represent a hunting organization, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one citizen member who represents an animal rights organization, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$4,200.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. ] All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the [ joint subcommittee Department ] , upon request.

The [ joint subcommittee Department ] shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of 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. ]

ENGROSSED

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