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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 497

Offered January 16, 1997

*Establishing the Federal Grants Study Commission.*

Patrons—Plum, Abbitt, Almand, Behm, Callahan, Christian, Connally, Councill, Cranwell, Croshaw, Darner, Davies, DeBoer, Diamonstein, Dickinson, Dillard, Grayson, Hall, Heilig, Hull, Jackson, Johnson, Lovelace, Melvin, Moss, Murphy, Phillips, Robinson, Scott, Spruill, Stump, Van Landingham, Van Yahres, Watkins, Watts and Woodrum

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the federal government distributed almost \$229 billion in grants to state and local governments in federal fiscal year 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia received approximately \$3.5 billion in federal grants in federal fiscal year 1995; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's receipt of federal grants on a per capita basis is the lowest of any state in the country and has been for five consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, the exact reasons for the state's disproportionately low receipt of federal grants are not known; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Federal Grants Study Commission be established. The Commission shall be comprised of 10 members to be appointed as follows; six members of the House of Delegates, of whom three shall serve on the House Appropriations Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker; and four members of the Senate, of whom two shall serve on the Senate Finance Committee; to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. In addition, the Commission shall invite the Governor and the 13 members of the Commonwealth's delegation to Congress to designate members to serve in an ex officio capacity.

The Commission shall examine the factors that have contributed to the state's relatively low receipt of federal grants. These factors shall include, but not be limited to, the potentially adverse effect of federal grant-in-aid formulas, including the roles of per capita income and population growth in said formulas. The Commission shall explore prudent means of increasing Virginia's share of federal grants in aid.

Legislative and executive agencies shall provide assistance upon request.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$6,000 annually.

The commission shall report interim findings and recommendations to the 1998 and subsequent sessions of the General Assembly until the completion of the study.

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 this study.

INTRODUCED

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