

1997 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 603

Offered January 20, 1997

Requesting the Center for Innovative Technology and the State Council of Higher Education to jointly study the most effective and efficient means of developing a technology-literate workforce in the Commonwealth.

Patrons—O'Brien, Albo and Bennett; Senators: Couric and Newman

Referred to Committee on Education

WHEREAS, there is a growing mismatch between the work skills needed by high-technology companies and the workforce available to provide those skills; and

WHEREAS, some people have suggested that Virginia's high-technology companies could hire 10,000 additional technology-literate employees today, if they could find such employees; and

WHEREAS, while Virginia's high-technology companies recruit employees from around the nation, it is difficult for such companies to compete with companies based in other technology-intensive locations such as California's Silicon Valley, Boston, Massachusetts, and Austin, Texas; and

WHEREAS, proficiency in Internet research, electronic mail, word processing, and database and spreadsheet programs is a prerequisite to becoming a technology-literate employee in the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, to provide the necessary computer training and equipment for all the Commonwealth's college students, teachers, principals, and guidance counselors may be an investment of millions of dollars and may return millions of dollars to the economy through wages and taxes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Center for Innovative Technology and the State Council of Higher Education be requested to jointly study the most effective and efficient means of developing a technology-literate workforce in the Commonwealth.

Assistance may be provided to the study by the joint subcommittee on science and technology created by House Joint Resolution 195 (1996) or a successor joint subcommittee or entity thereof. Upon request, all agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the study.

The Center for Innovative Technology and the State Council of Higher Education shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations on or before November 15, 1997, to the joint subcommittee on science and technology created by House Joint Resolution 195 (1996) or a successor joint subcommittee or entity thereof and shall also submit their 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.

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