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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 624

House Amendments in [] — January 29, 1997

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the maintenance, renovation [~~and construction~~ of , construction, and financing of local] courthouses in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Patron—Melvin

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

WHEREAS, Virginia's courthouses in some localities represent architectural landmarks; and
WHEREAS, the maintenance, renovation, and construction of courthouses traditionally have been the jurisdiction of local governments; and

WHEREAS, sociological and demographic trends in some regions have rendered some courthouse facilities too small to serve the functions for which they were intended; and

WHEREAS, technological innovations such as the rapid change in computer technology have taxed the infrastructure of some courthouse complexes; and

WHEREAS, although representing architectural treasures, many local courthouses are ill-equipped to provide full access to the disabled and adequate security for court employees; and

WHEREAS, many courthouses require renovations or construction that appear to be beyond the capacity of the local tax base; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the maintenance, renovation, construction, and financing of local courthouses in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The study shall consider the adequacy of local courthouse structures in the Commonwealth, local needs for renovation to accommodate full access, new technology, and adequate security, and local ability to pay for necessary maintenance, renovation and construction.

The joint subcommittee shall consist of 9 members to be appointed as follows: 5 members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and 4 members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$5,400.

The joint subcommittee 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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