

1997 SESSION

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 651 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 17, 1997)

(Patron Prior to Substitute-Delegate Wagner)

Requesting the Department of Education, in cooperation of the Departments of Labor and Industry and Taxation, to study ways to encourage business participation in school-to-work transition initiatives, mentoring, and apprenticeship programs.

WHEREAS, recognizing the need to provide broad opportunities for students in the public schools to explore career options, receive advanced technical skills training, and enhance their eligibility for postsecondary education and successful employment, the 1995 Session of the General Assembly authorized local school boards to establish school-to-work programs for public school students in grades five through twelve; and

WHEREAS, to enhance these transition programs, school boards are to "develop appropriate interagency linkages with public and private institutions of higher education, labor and industry councils, the business community, rehabilitative services providers, and employment and guidance services to assist such students in acquiring necessary work habits, developing marketable skills, and identifying career goals through a broad range of educational and career opportunities and mentoring and apprenticeship programs"; and

WHEREAS, to demonstrate support for these and other school-to-work initiatives, the 1996 Session created the School-To-Work Transition Grants Program, providing for competitive grants for model programs promoting the effective transition from the school environment to the workplace and for school-to-work transition programs established pursuant to § 22.1-209.01; and

WHEREAS, the participation of businesses in school-to-work programs and other initiatives, such as apprenticeships and mentoring programs, is essential to ensure increased opportunities for the education and training of the Commonwealth's young people; and

WHEREAS, the creation of incentives to enhance business participation in these programs requires consideration of a variety of financial and policy issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Departments of Labor and Industry and Taxation, be requested to study ways to encourage business participation in school-to-work transition initiatives, mentoring, and apprenticeship programs. The Department, working through the Secretary of Education's Virginia Business Education Partnership Program, shall consider, among other things, current school-to-work, mentoring, and apprenticeship programs in the Commonwealth and in other states; the feasibility and appropriateness of providing financial incentives, such as tax credits, to encourage business participation in such initiatives; potential business liability and labor law concerns; and such other issues as it deems appropriate.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department of Education and the Virginia Business Education Partnership, upon request.

The Department of Education 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.

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