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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 191

Offered January 8, 1997

Prefiled January 7, 1997

Expressing the sense of the General Assembly regarding development and implementation of a highway incident management system.

Patron—Waddell

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, national statistics show that highway incidents cause 60 percent of the vehicle hours lost to traffic congestion, that approximately 20 percent of all highway accidents are caused by a previous accident, and that a 20-minute delay due to one blocked lane causes a one-to-two-mile backup and over 2000 vehicle hours of delay; and

WHEREAS, there are problems associated with the management of highway incidents, particularly those involving multiple agencies, each with its own fundamentally different perspective on the intent of highway incident management; and

WHEREAS, the paramount objective in all highway incident mitigation efforts—protecting the safety of highway travelers and emergency response personnel—requires that fire, emergency medical service, law-enforcement, and transportation agencies understand and be sensitive to each other's needs when operating at highway incidents; and

WHEREAS, one action that fire, emergency medical service, law-enforcement, and transportation agencies might prudently and productively undertake to reduce conflicts in clearing a highway incident is to adopt and implement a multi-disciplinary highway incident management system; and

WHEREAS, within such a system, the responsibilities and duties of key agencies should be predesignated by formal agreement so that the system can meet the needs and concerns of each agency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That it is the sense of the General Assembly that, because coordination of multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional resources responding to major emergencies cannot be left to voluntary cooperation alone, the Virginia Department of Transportation's statewide highway incident management committee be responsible for the development and implementation of a statewide highway incident management system; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That this system be developed and adopted in conjunction with representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of State Police, the Virginia Department of Emergency Services, the State Sheriffs Association, the Virginia State Fire Chiefs Association, the Virginia State Rescue Squad Association, the Virginia State Firefighters Association, the Virginia Fire Services Council, and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That this statewide standard highway incident management system be adopted and used by emergency response personnel to manage all highway incident operations; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that due consideration be given to adopting the highway incident command system, as taught by the National Emergency Training Center, as the system for managing all highway incident operations within the Commonwealth of Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of State Police, the Virginia Department of Emergency Services, the State Sheriffs Association, the Virginia State Fire Chiefs Association, the Virginia State Rescue Squad Association, the Virginia State Firefighters Association, the Virginia Fire Services Council, and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

INTRODUCED

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