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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 370

Offered January 20, 1997

Requesting the State Librarian and the State Archivist, in conjunction with representatives of the doctoral-granting universities and the Virginia Press Association, to study the steps necessary to develop guidelines to implement provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act which require the compilation of indices of computer databases held by public bodies of state government.

Patron—Houck

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the 1996 session of the General Assembly passed Chapter 469 of the Acts of Assembly, which amended the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to require public bodies of state government to compile and update indices of computer databases beginning July 1, 1997; and

WHEREAS, in Senate Document No. 10 (1997), the Department of Information Technology has identified a number of issues which require greater consideration and additional input from knowledgeable individuals and industry representatives; and

WHEREAS, the State Librarian and the State Archivist are prepared to increase their respective levels of assistance; and

WHEREAS, other states, including North Carolina, have recently enacted and implemented similar legislation and have developed guidelines accordingly; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the State Librarian and the State Archivist be requested to coordinate a study with the doctoral-granting universities, the Council on Information Management, the Department of Information Technology, and the Virginia Press Association for the development and implementation of the indices of computer databases required by Chapter 469 of the 1996 Acts of Assembly. The Secretaries of Administration and Education are requested to provide necessary assistance to the State Librarian and the State Archivist. The State Archivist is requested to consult with the North Carolina Archivist to review North Carolina's implementation of its indices of computer databases and guidelines established pursuant thereto.

The State Librarian and State Archivist shall complete the study in time to 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 Services for processing legislative documents.

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