

1998 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 110

Offered January 22, 1998

Requesting the Commission on Local Government, in cooperation with the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, to study the use of local ombudsmen by localities.

Patron—Morgan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's localities are becoming increasingly sophisticated, complex, and departmentalized; and

WHEREAS, as a locality becomes more sophisticated, complex and departmentalized, it often becomes increasingly difficult for the average citizen to know where to turn to resolve problems which arise with the locality, especially when such problems may involve two or more departments or agencies of the locality; and

WHEREAS, localities may be able to better help its citizens resolve such problems with the creation of a local ombudsman position; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia currently offers no guidance to localities on the issue of creation of local ombudsmen, and most Virginia localities do not appear to have created an ombudsman or a similar position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Commission on Local Government, in cooperation with the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, be requested to study the use of local ombudsmen by localities. The study shall examine (i) the current use by Virginia localities of ombudsmen or similar positions; (ii) the use of local ombudsmen in other states and the role which other states play with regard to authorizing, regulating, mandating, or funding such positions; and (iii) the feasibility of the creation and use of local ombudsman positions in Virginia and the role, if any, which the Commonwealth should play in such matter.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission on Local Government for this study, upon request.

The Commission on Local Government shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1999 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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