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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 158

Offered January 26, 1998

Requesting the Virginia State Crime Commission to study the feasibility of statewide implementation of the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) program.

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Patrons—Guest, Almand, Darner, Davies, Deeds, Diamonstein, Jackson, Kilgore, Scott, Watts and Woodrum; Senators: Howell, Schrock and Stolle

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Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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WHEREAS, the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) program is a free 24-hour automated hot line which provides crime victims with current information on offenders housed in the City of Chesapeake Jail.; and

WHEREAS, the VINE system allows a victim to call and receive information on the custody status of an inmate and it automatically notifies a registered crime victim when the person by whom they were victimized has a change of custody status; and

WHEREAS, through VINE, the City of Chesapeake Jail booking system is electronically linked to the National Call Center in Louisville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the VINE program is designed to bridge the gap between crime victims and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, because of the information available through the VINE program victims have felt more secure; and

WHEREAS, because of the success of the VINE program it has been suggested that it be implemented statewide; and

WHEREAS, the VINE program is privately funded by an anonymous benefactor and the cost and feasibility of implementing the program on a statewide basis must be evaluated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia State Crime Commission be directed to study the effects, feasibility and cost of implementing the VINE system statewide.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

The Commission 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.