

1998 SESSION

INTRODUCED

981174148

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 250

Offered January 26, 1998

Encouraging gifted education personnel to seek the add-on endorsement in gifted education.

Patrons—Christian, Crittenden, Darner, Day, Hull, Jackson, Kilgore, McEachin, Melvin, Moran, Puller, Robinson, Shuler and Wagner; Senators: Howell, Lucas, Miller, Y.B. and Ticer

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, federal and state laws require early identification of gifted students and that an appropriate and differentiated educational program be provided for them; and

WHEREAS, many underserved gifted and talented youth do not conform to the conventional stereotype of "giftedness," and many such youth may languish in classrooms without attention to their educational needs because they often demonstrate poor academic performance, boredom, inattentiveness, and disciplinary problems; and

WHEREAS, this problem is exacerbated for gifted and talented minority and low-income students whose potential and abilities lie dormant due to neglect, inappropriate identification, lack of stimulation, and unequal educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the joint subcommittee has found that gifted minority and low-income students are under-represented in gifted education programs across the Commonwealth due, in part, to the use of certain criteria to identify them, low teacher expectations, stereotypical labels, and tracking; and

WHEREAS, although the Standards of Accreditation require that teachers specially trained in gifted education instruct such students, too often, teachers with little or no knowledge about or experience in teaching gifted students are assigned to these classes; and

WHEREAS, principals set the tone and provide leadership in schools, affecting the education of students, and gifted education supervisors often have multiple tasks and responsibilities, and are not necessarily knowledgeable about the educational needs of gifted students or are trained to administer programs for the gifted; and

WHEREAS, compliance with the Standards of Accreditation regarding the qualifications of teachers and staff of gifted education programs would enhance such programs and facilitate the identification of underserved gifted students, and better service delivery; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of gifted students to have teachers and staff who recognize and understand their unique educational needs, and much could be accomplished if school personnel assigned to gifted education programs sought and obtained the add-on endorsement in gifted education which would provide the knowledge and skills needed to meet the challenges of teaching and serving these students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That gifted education personnel be encouraged to seek the add-on endorsement in gifted education; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Education, the President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the Virginia School Boards Association, the Chairman of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, the President of the Virginia Education Association, the president of the Advisory Board for Teacher Education and Licensure, and the chairman and director of the State Council of Higher Education in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

INTRODUCED

HJ250