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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 62

Offered January 19, 1998

Continuing the Joint Subcommittee Studying Remedial Summer School as the Joint Subcommittee on Remediation to examine and evaluate the system of remediation in the public schools.

Patrons—Van Yahres, Christian, Dillard and Rhodes; Senators: Lambert, Miller, Y.B. and Woods

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee Studying Remedial Summer School was established in 1995, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 529, to study the status and needs of the remedial summer school program; and

WHEREAS, the joint subcommittee's study was continued under House Joint Resolution No. 84 (1996), to provide for a comprehensive examination of the system of remediation, including the process of remediating students, administration and organization of the system, the curriculum, funding, and a review of the academic performance of students who are identified for remediation; and

WHEREAS, the joint subcommittee has found that the numbers of children who are educationally at-risk have increased significantly in Virginia due to societal changes and socioeconomic and cultural deprivations; and

WHEREAS, the number of children requiring remediation is expected to increase substantially due to the rigor of the requirements of the revised Standards of Learning (SOLs), the new Standards of Accreditation (SOAs), and the implementation of new statewide student assessments to measure student mastery of the Standards of Learning and to provide accountability; and

WHEREAS, today, many of the students in the Commonwealth's public schools who have limited English proficiency enter the public school for the first time as teens, having never attended school in their native land; and

WHEREAS, as a result, these students are illiterate in their own language as well as being unable to converse in English, so they will likely be unable to meet the requirements of the new Standards of Accreditation; and

WHEREAS, although new legislation has been enacted over the past few years to strengthen remedial programs and to require the attendance of students with poor academic performance, remediation is often deferred to later in the school year or in the summer, further exacerbating the student's progress; and

WHEREAS, because remedial summer school programs are optional in Virginia, and because not all school divisions offer such programs, there is considerable inconsistency among local programs, which affects the quality and availability of the programs; and

WHEREAS, because there is no requirement at the state level for the evaluation of remedial programs and virtually no follow-up by school divisions of students who attend remedial programs, the effectiveness of the remediation of students cannot be verified; and

WHEREAS, lack of transportation and consistency, and inadequate funding are barriers to quality remedial summer school programs, to the ability to serve eligible students in many school divisions, and to the implementation of innovative alternatives for remediation throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS, because remediation takes place in many forms, and students may have demonstrated from minor to very severe academic problems, all students who have academic deficiencies do not need to participate in formal remediation programs; and

WHEREAS, flexibility in remediation programs is necessary so that the instructional staff may fashion appropriate educational alternatives to meet the specific academic needs of individual students; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the availability and flexibility of and access to quality remediation programs throughout the school year and during the summer is critical, in view of the anticipated numbers of students who will be unable to meet the new SOLs and SOAs, and to pass the required end of course tests; and

WHEREAS, the joint subcommittee's preliminary findings, and the increasing importance and emphasis on the need for quality remedial programs, particularly given the potential impact of the new SOLs, SOAs, and statewide assessments on school divisions and student achievement, reveal the need for further study before appropriate recommendations can be offered to improve the system of remediation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Subcommittee Studying Remedial Summer School be continued as the Joint Subcommittee on Remediation to examine

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60 and evaluate the system of remediation in the public schools. The members of the joint subcommittee
61 appointed pursuant to HJR 84 (1996) shall continue to serve, with the addition of one citizen who shall
62 be the immediate former delegate of the 48thHouse District and chairman of the joint subcommittee, to
63 be appointed by the Speaker of the House. Vacancies shall be filled as provided in HJR 84 (1996).

64 The joint subcommittee shall (i) continue its examination of the issues and objectives enumerated in
65 HJR 529 (1995) and HJR 84 (1996); (ii) assess the potential impact of the SOLs, SOAs, and statewide
66 student assessments on the need for remedial programs; (iii) evaluate the effectiveness of existing
67 remedial programs; (iv) review all statutory and regulatory requirements and any legislation carried over
68 to the 1999 Session pertaining to the remediation of students in grades K-12 vis-?-vis the joint
69 subcommittee's findings and best educational practices; (v) recommend appropriate and feasible
70 alternatives to facilitate the early identification of students educationally at-risk and the delivery of
71 remedial programs throughout the school year; and (vi) consider such other issues related to its charge
72 which it may deem necessary.

73 Staffing shall continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services.

74 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

75 The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$7,250.

76 The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations
77 to the Governor and the 1999 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the
78 Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

79 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
80 Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the
81 study.