

# 1999 SESSION

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 571

Offered January 19, 1999

*Requesting the Department for the Visually Handicapped to examine all statutory language currently in use which refers to those persons with some level of visual impairment and make recommendations for a standard terminology.*

Patron—Rhodes

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Department for the Visually Handicapped oversees all functions of state authority with regard to those persons with some level of visual impairment; and

WHEREAS, there are a variety of programs available to persons with differing levels of sight to assist them in remaining independent and able to experience life to its fullest; and

WHEREAS, over the years the terminology referring to those with visual impairment has changed for a number of reasons, including the "People First" movement which recognizes that the person is the primary focus of attention, and the handicap is secondary; and

WHEREAS, references in the Code of Virginia are inconsistent and confusing; and

WHEREAS, there needs to be some standardization throughout state law with regard to references to those persons with a visual impairment, but a close evaluation of each reference must be done to determine the appropriateness of such a change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department for the Visually Handicapped undertake a review of the statutory references to persons with visual impairment which appear in the Code and determine how we can best standardize these references so that they are accurate.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department for the Visually Handicapped for this study, upon request.

The Department for the Visually Handicapped shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2000 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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