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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 595

Offered January 20, 1999

Directing the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate to explore the feasibility of connecting the General Assembly Building and the Capitol Building to the Net.Work.Virginia communications network.

Patrons—Plum, May and Nixon

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Net.Work.Virginia was created by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bell Atlantic, Sprint, Old Dominion University, and the Virginia Community College System; and

WHEREAS, Net.Work.Virginia is a high-speed, broadband communications network delivering asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) service statewide; and

WHEREAS, to date, over 300 of Virginia's public schools, colleges, universities, community colleges, libraries, state agencies, and local governments have become connected to Net.Work.Virginia; and

WHEREAS, connecting the General Assembly Building and the Capitol Building to Net.Work.Virginia would permit legislators to participate in videoconferenced public meetings and hearings from within or near their home districts at public sites connected to Net.Work.Virginia, thus saving legislators' time and taxpayers' money; and

WHEREAS, Net.Work.Virginia would provide a mechanism to increase public awareness of and participation in the work of Virginia's legislature; and

WHEREAS, legislators in other states are employing advanced information technology and communications services to help manage complex information and use their time more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, legislatures in Kentucky, Nevada, Wisconsin, and Utah are among the states that have installed videoconferencing systems; and

WHEREAS, legislative staff from these four states recently reported a very favorable response to videoconferenced meetings and hearings among legislators, staff, lobbyists, and the general public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate are directed to explore the feasibility of connecting the General Assembly Building and the Capitol Building to the Net.Work.Virginia communications network. The Clerks shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Joint Rules Committee and the 2000 Session of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCED

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