

# 1999 SESSION

ENROLLED

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 604

*Requesting the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to study the transporting, ginning, storing, and purchasing of cotton in Virginia.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 5, 1999

Agreed to by the Senate, February 18, 1999

WHEREAS, in the past decade cotton has become a significant field crop in Virginia, with over 100,000 acres planted and over \$50 million in cash receipts in 1997; and

WHEREAS, the transporting, ginning, storing, and purchasing of cotton differs significantly from the way other crops are produced, stored, and marketed in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, little regulatory oversight exists in Virginia for any of the aforementioned activities; and

WHEREAS, most other cotton-producing states have some level of regulatory oversight for such activities; and

WHEREAS, the interests of cotton growers in Virginia may not be adequately protected without such regulatory oversight; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services be requested to study the transporting, ginning, storing, and purchasing of cotton in Virginia. The Department shall seek the input of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the Virginia Cotton Growers Association, Virginia Agribusiness Council, and other interested parties identified by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and shall develop a plan to ensure that the interests of the Virginia cotton industry are protected throughout the process of growing, storing, and marketing cotton.

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

The Department 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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