

# 1999 SESSION

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 688

*Requesting the Department of Juvenile Justice to develop a standardized social history form for use by court services units.*

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

Agreed to by the Senate, February 18, 1999

WHEREAS, it is important to provide the judiciary with sufficient information regarding the background of a delinquent juvenile for appropriate dispositional decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Juvenile Justice, through the local court services units, provides courts, upon request, with a social history on a juvenile following adjudication; and

WHEREAS, these social histories vary greatly from locality to locality and court to court; and

WHEREAS, a standardized social history form would enable the Department of Juvenile Justice to collect standardized data for funding and policy purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Juvenile Justice be requested to develop a standardized social history form for use by court services units. The Department shall collaborate with the Supreme Court and the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to ensure that essential data elements are included in the form.

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

The Department shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Virginia State Crime Commission, the Commission on Youth, and the House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice by December 1, 1999.

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