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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 410

Senate Amendments in [] — February 4, 1999

Requesting the Department of Criminal Justice Services to evaluate the feasibility and costs of distance learning techniques for law-enforcement training.

Patron—Holland

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia requires all law-enforcement officers to complete training prior to being certified; and

WHEREAS, there are 36 criminal justice training academies located throughout the Commonwealth which provide training and instruction in the basic law-enforcement and criminal justice curriculum; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of the curriculum consists of basic law and other topics which apply uniformly throughout the state, and should be efficiently and effectively taught with a high degree of consistency so that officers in all parts of the state receive equal exposure to these fundamentals; and

WHEREAS, new law-enforcement officers are required to attend a minimum number of hours of training regardless of their different rates of learning and mastery of any particular topic; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Federal Bureau of Investigation found that a basic counterintelligence curriculum could be conveyed to students much more quickly in a computerized interactive format than through a traditional classroom lecture approach, with substantial and lasting results; and

WHEREAS, the use of such technology may permit basic law-enforcement training to make increased use of nationally recognized experts in various law-enforcement topics; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission recently completed a study of regional criminal justice training academies, and recommended further review of distance learning and computerized approaches to teaching the basic law-enforcement curriculum; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, that the Department of Criminal Justice Services be directed to evaluate and report on the feasibility and attendant costs of distance learning and computerized approaches to teaching the basic law-enforcement curriculum. The study shall include an assessment of existing community college and state resources, such as the remote conferencing facilities operated by the Department of Information Technology.

The Department shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the [2000 2001] 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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