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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 156
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 7, 2000)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Stolle)

Requesting the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Technology, and Secretary of Commerce and Trade, in consultation with the Commonwealth's state-supported colleges and universities, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and the Virginia Community College System, to study the development of a common, transferable set of competencies and the development of the Higher Education Technology Curriculum for the Twenty-first Century to be offered as the core curriculum at each of the Commonwealth's state-supported colleges and universities.

WHEREAS, it is essential that Virginia's colleges and universities prepare their students to learn, adapt, and expand their technology-related skills, thereby equipping them with the tools necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive, technology-based, twenty-first century global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the technology sector plays and will continue to play a key role in the growth of the Commonwealth's employment market and future economic development; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of competent and qualified technology workers is a major limiting factor on the continued growth of the technology sector within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the increasing workforce demands of the technology sector throughout the Commonwealth present a direct and profound challenge to Virginia's four-year colleges to provide their students with the education, training, and experiences necessary to better compete for technology jobs; and

WHEREAS, formalized education and training initiatives premised on closer linkage between and among Virginia's colleges and universities and the technology sector can help to bridge the gap between the employment needs of the Commonwealth's technology sector and the skill sets of Virginia's students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Technology, and Secretary of Commerce and Trade, in consultation with the Commonwealth's state-supported colleges and universities, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and the Virginia Community College System, are requested to study the development of a common, transferable set of competencies and the development of the Higher Education Technology Curriculum for the Twenty-first Century to be offered as the core curriculum at each of the Commonwealth's state-supported colleges and universities. Provisions shall be made for the consultation of and participation by technology industry officials in the development of these competencies. After determining these competencies, the study shall develop an appropriate curriculum to prepare students for their roles in the technology-based economy of the Twenty-first Century.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretaries of Education, Technology, and Commerce and Trade for this study, upon request.

The Secretaries of Education, Technology, and Commerce and Trade shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Finance Committee, as well as the Senate Education and Health Committee and the House Education Committee, prior to November 1, 2000, and to the Governor and the 2001 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.