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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 82

Offered January 18, 2000

*Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the feasibility of establishing a regional hub airport in Eastern Virginia.*

Patrons—Williams and Schrock; Delegate: Larrabee

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Eastern Virginia is served by three major air carrier airports in the cities of Newport News, Norfolk, and Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Virginia is home to both a significant portion of Virginia's population and a large number of Virginia's major employers; and

WHEREAS, the future of air transportation in this region is critical to existing businesses and the citizens of Eastern Virginia as well as being important to the economic development efforts of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, there may exist efficiencies in the operation of one large airport that would serve the entire Eastern Virginia region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to examine the feasibility of establishing a regional hub airport in Eastern Virginia. The joint subcommittee shall, without limitation, examine issues including future capacity at existing facilities, the cost of a new airport, the likelihood of reduced airfares for the citizens and businesses of the Commonwealth, and the economic impact of existing facilities as well as a new facility. The joint subcommittee may consider the interim or final recommendations of the Eastern Virginia Airport System Study being conducted by the Department of Aviation. The joint subcommittee shall be composed of 12 members, which shall include eight legislative members, one representative from the Department of Aviation, and three nonlegislative citizen members as follows: four members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; four members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker according to Rule 16 of the Rules of the House of Delegates; three citizen members which shall include one member of each of the governing bodies to be appointed by that body of the airports located in the cities of Newport News, Norfolk, and Richmond; and one member from the Department of Aviation.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall make recommendations concerning the viability and necessity of a regional hub airport in Eastern Virginia.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$8,000.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations 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.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

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