

## 2005 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 713

*Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the need for greater consolidation or coordination of the workforce development and training resources available in the Commonwealth. Report.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 5, 2005

Agreed to by the Senate, February 24, 2005

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in 1998 to eliminate duplication of effort and wasted resources by requiring states to develop service delivery systems that consolidate access to 17 federally funded workforce training programs; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's 2002-2004 Appropriation Act directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to examine Virginia's implementation of the WIA, including evaluating the role of the Virginia Employment Commission as lead agency; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 JLARC issued a comprehensive assessment of Virginia's implementation of the WIA; and

WHEREAS, JLARC made 12 recommendations supporting their central finding that no Virginia state agency had the authority or structure to administer the training system mandated by the WIA; and

WHEREAS, JLARC found not only that the current administration of the WIA is fragmented, but also that the Virginia Employment Commission does not have the authority to coordinate resources in complete accordance with the federal mandates; and

WHEREAS, JLARC recommended that the General Assembly may wish to consider consolidating workforce training programs under a new State agency for workforce training and development; the new agency should also assume the functions currently completed by the Virginia Employment Commission and should be the lead for the implementation and administration of the one-stop service delivery system and the programs consolidated within the agency; and that the Secretary of Commerce and Trade should develop a plan for the consolidation into a single agency workforce training programs as well as other functions currently performed by the Virginia Employment Commission; and

WHEREAS, JLARC also recommended that the General Assembly may wish to consider assigning independent staff to the Virginia Workforce Council through the Governor's office, the office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, or a public-private partnership; and that the Council, through its staff director, should be the lead for strategic planning, policy guidance, and coordination of issues crossing agency or Secretarial boundaries; and

WHEREAS, legislation passed in the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly modified certain aspects of Virginia's implementation, including the structure of the Virginia Workforce Council (Council) and the types of programs encompassed within the coordinated approach directed by the WIA; and

WHEREAS, the same legislation also expanded the programs involved in the Virginia Workforce Network by directing each local workforce investment board (WIB) to enter into memoranda of understanding with entities that administer not just the 11 WIA-mandated programs, but also unemployment insurance, Community Services Block Grant programs, employment and training programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and, notably, workforce programs under Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), the Virginia Initiative for Employment, not Welfare (VIEW), and workforce programs under the Food Stamp Act; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive legislation filed in the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly seeking to consolidate and coordinate workforce training and development resources failed in the House Committee on Commerce and Labor; and

WHEREAS, there remain in the Commonwealth unsolved problems and issues related to the consolidation or other coordination of workforce training and development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the need for greater consolidation or coordination of the workforce development and training resources available in the Commonwealth. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 15 members that shall consist of eight legislative members, five nonlegislative citizen members, and two ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; three nonlegislative citizen members, of whom one shall be a member of a local WIB, one shall be an individual representing a private employment training provider, and one shall have expertise in Virginia workforce training and development issues, programs, and funding to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

ENROLLED

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and two nonlegislative citizen members, of whom one shall be an individual representing the Virginia Community College System, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The President of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce or his designee and the Attorney General or her designee shall serve as ex officio members with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall identify all workforce training and development resources in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including annual funding appropriations, staffing and management responsibilities; develop models for consolidation or other coordination of workforce training resources; identify needed changes to the administrative structure governing workforce development and training policy in the Commonwealth; identify costs of implementing and cost savings associated with greater coordination of resources; and make legislative recommendations for the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2005 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$10,000 without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2005, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and the report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2005 interim.