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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 363

Offered January 14, 2009

Directing the Crime Commission to study criminal justice issues regarding the manufacture and use of false identification cards. Report.

Patron—Martin

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, there are a number of provisions in the Virginia Code that make the use of a false form of identification a crime; and

WHEREAS, the increased availability to the public of sophisticated equipment such as high-quality color printers and scanners has led to the proliferation of false identification documents; and

WHEREAS, it can be difficult to prove that an identification card is false, particularly if it is from a foreign jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, there may be certain law-enforcement and judicial procedures that can be implemented to increase the apprehension and conviction of persons who use false identification documents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Crime Commission be directed to study issues regarding the apprehension and prosecution of persons with false identification cards. Measures to prevent the use of false identification documents, identification of such documents by law-enforcement and other persons, and judicial procedures, including admissibility of evidence and use of expert testimony shall be examined.

In conducting its study, the Crime Commission shall identify the prevalence of false identification documents, methods of preventing the manufacture and use of such documents, and effective means of identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting the use of false documents.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Crime Commission by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Department of State Police. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Crime Commission for this study, upon request.

The Crime Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2009, and the Crime Commission 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 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Crime Commission 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 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.

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