

12103921D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 137

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 11, 2012

Requesting the Secretary of Natural Resources to study the potential modification of regulatory requirements to alleviate the cost and time required to pursue land-disturbing activities in Virginia. Report.

Patron—Poindexter

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, beneficial economic activities such as business and industrial real-estate development, homebuilding, and farming inherently require work that is classified as a land-disturbing activity; and

WHEREAS, especially during an economic downturn, the responsible pursuit of economic activities ought to be encouraged, although those activities may require the disturbance of land; and

WHEREAS, land-disturbing activities are heavily regulated in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, a careful reduction in the burden imposed by regulations on land-disturbing activities is likely to benefit Virginia residents and enhance the economy of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Secretary of Natural Resources be requested to study the potential modification of regulatory requirements to alleviate the cost and time required to pursue land-disturbing activities in Virginia.

In conducting its study, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall study all regulations, permitting requirements, and licensing requirements applicable to land-disturbing activities in the Commonwealth. The Secretary shall determine which requirements may be eliminated, modified, or delayed to alleviate the cost and time for permitting and development of land-disturbing activities. The study shall include related regulations, permitting, and license requirements for materials, construction, water, sewer, electrical, and plumbing aspects of construction related to land-disturbing activities.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Secretary of Natural Resources by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Secretary for this study, upon request. The Secretary shall convene a study group whose members include but are not limited to representatives of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the farming and agriculture industry, the homebuilding industry, the commercial development industry, and other land-disturbing industries.

The Secretary of Natural Resources shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2012, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and 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 no later than the first day of the 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

HJ137