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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 65

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 10, 2012

*Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the feasibility of vital records automation indexing. Report.*

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Patron—Blevins

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Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, citizens in the Commonwealth and across the nation are increasingly interested in tracing their genealogical roots; and

WHEREAS, state law determines when certain records are released to the public and how accessible such records are when they are released; and

WHEREAS, private organizations have partnered with several states to index their public records in a manner that makes these records more accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, there may be a way to make public records more accessible at little or no cost to the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission be directed to study the feasibility of vital records automation indexing.

In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall (i) examine alternatives available for the automation indexing of vital records in the Commonwealth; (ii) consider costs, accessibility, privacy implications, and other practical implications for each option; and (iii) make recommendations to the General Assembly for any necessary changes to state law to implement the most feasible option.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission by the State Registrar of Vital Records. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission for this study, upon request.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2012, 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 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the 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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