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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 657

Offered January 9, 2013

Prefiled January 8, 2013

Requesting the Department of Veterans Services to study the unmet needs of Virginia's veteran population and assess the level of preparedness of state and local governments and other service providers to meet those needs. Report.

Patrons—Krupicka and Filler-Corn

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Virginia's veterans deserve special recognition for the sacrifices they have made for their country and for the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is home to approximately 820,000 veterans; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's veterans range in age and experience from young adults who graduated from high school, served their country in the military, and now seek to either continue their education or enter the workforce to those who are very much older, retired, and now require a very different set of government services; and

WHEREAS, many veterans and their families are not receiving the governmental services they need and have earned; and

WHEREAS, Virginia should conduct a comprehensive study of the needs of veterans and their families and the impact of providing for those needs to the Commonwealth and localities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Veterans Services (the Department) be requested to study the unmet needs of Virginia's veteran population and assess the level of preparedness of state and local governments and other service providers to meet those needs. In conducting its study, the Department shall include representatives of local community services boards, local government, the Virginia Housing Development Authority, and other stakeholders to examine the needs of veterans in Virginia, evaluate which needs are currently being met and which needs still need to be met, and present a plan for the provision of support for veterans. The Department shall recommend whatever changes in law and policy deemed necessary to ensure Virginia veterans have access to the services they need and that the Commonwealth, both at the state and local level, is prepared to provide such services. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department for this study, upon request.

The Department shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2013, 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 2014 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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