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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 55

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled December 29, 2015

Requesting the Department of State Police to study the laws and policies governing bicycling on state highways. Report.

Patron—Lingamfelter

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, bicycling is an efficient mode of transportation for most short trips that reduces motor vehicle congestion on roadways, parking problems, air pollution, noise, and energy use; and

WHEREAS, bicycling as a mode of transportation has increased significantly over the last decade, particularly among urban commuters; and

WHEREAS, every year bicyclists are injured or killed as a result of motor vehicle accidents, and bicyclists face a higher risk of crash-related injury and death than occupants of motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of bicyclists killed in vehicular accidents nationwide has continued to increase since 2010; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of State Police be requested to study the laws and policies governing bicycling on state highways.

In conducting its study, the Department of State Police shall consider (i) the policies that govern safe bicycling on state highways and how bicycling on highways may be made safer; (ii) whether certain highways should be restricted to bicycling on the basis of hazardous physical characteristics, traffic flow, speed limits, and visibility of bicyclers by motorists; (iii) any safety-related standards bicyclists should observe that are not currently required; (iv) any additional measures motorists should observe that are not currently required; (v) whether additional education requirements for bicyclists and motorists are needed to enhance bicycling safety; and (vi) effective bicycling safety policies in other states.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department of State Police for this study, upon request.

The Department of State Police shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2016, 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 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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