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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 546

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled November 23, 2016

Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the Virginia High School League. Report.

Patrons—Bell, Richard P., Cole, Dudenhefer, Fariss, Fowler, Helsel, Kilgore, Landes, Lingamfelter, Stolle and Webert

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Virginia High School League (VHSL) is a § 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that reported \$8.6 million in revenue and \$9 million in expenses in 2014; and

WHEREAS, member schools join VHSL with the consent of their local school boards; and

WHEREAS, VHSL has for more than 100 years served the Commonwealth's public high schools and public high school student athletes by facilitating athletic and educational programs and intrastate tournaments, establishing standards, and maintaining rules to govern competitions; and

WHEREAS, VHSL provides other services, such as offering catastrophic injury insurance and providing training to coaches and officials; and

WHEREAS, VHSL has substantial influence on high school athletics programs by serving more than 200,000 public high school student athletes and their parents and other family members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission be directed to study the Virginia High School League.

In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall (i) review the usefulness of the functions currently performed by VHSL; (ii) assess how effectively VHSL fulfills its role, including its sanctioning authority; (iii) assess whether there is sufficient transparency and accountability in VHSL executive committee, board, and staff decisions, operations, and funding; (iv) compare the role and operations of VHSL with those of similar organizations in other states; (v) assess whether VHSL as currently structured is the best model for performing the functions that VHSL currently performs; and (vi) review other issues and make recommendations as appropriate.

In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) shall have access to VHSL facilities, employees, information, and records, including confidential information of VHSL and its contractors and records of public and executive session meetings of the VHSL executive committee, in accordance with the established standards, processes, and practices exercised by JLARC pursuant to its statutory authority.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission by the Department of Education and each local school division. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to JLARC for this study, upon request.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2017, and for the second year by November 30, 2018, 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 next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall state whether JLARC 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 summaries and reports 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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