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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 9, 2018

Encouraging the Federal Aviation Administration to delegate to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Aviation the administration of environmental approvals needed to develop in and around airports.

Patron—Cosgrove

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, certain airport planning and development projects may require an environmental review to account for any significant consequences to natural resources near the proposed development; and

WHEREAS, environmental approvals are necessary for projects that make major changes to the approved airport layout plan, particularly projects that involve land acquisition or earthwork disturbances; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration currently conducts a systematic, multidisciplinary evaluation to verify compliance with applicable regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Historic Preservation Act, and the Airport and Airway Improvement Act; and

WHEREAS, it would be highly beneficial for the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into an understanding with the Virginia Secretary of Transportation and the Department of Aviation on the approvals needed for development in and around the Commonwealth's airports; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Secretary of Transportation and the Department of Aviation are capable of effectively and efficiently administering environmental approvals and enforcing compliance with applicable regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Secretary of Transportation and the Department of Aviation have a vested interest in safeguarding the Commonwealth's valuable natural resources, and local authorities possess the institutional knowledge to assess unique factors at each airport; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly encourage the Federal Aviation Administration to delegate to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Aviation the administration of environmental approvals needed to develop in and around airports; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Federal Aviation Administration in order that the members of the agency may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter during their deliberations.

INTRODUCED

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