

1995 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

Offered January 19, 1994

Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to study deicing agents.

Patrons—May, Albo, Keating, McClure and Rollison; Senator: Waddell

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, during winter weather, the accumulation of snow and ice on highways can render travel dangerous and minimal safety levels can be maintained only through extensive snow and ice removal and control operations; and

WHEREAS, these operations often involve extensive use of chemical agents; and

WHEREAS, in choosing which chemical agents to use and when and where to use them, the Virginia Department of Transportation consider a variety of factors, among which are the cost of the agents, their efficacy in controlling snow and ice, and their effect upon highway structures, vehicles, and the environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Department of Transportation be requested to study available information on alternative highway snow and ice control agents whose use can result in substantial reduction in or elimination of concrete spalling, metal corrosion, and ecological damage associate with presently-employed agents with the overall objective of developing a strategy for reducing Virginia's use of road salt. In particular, the Department is requested to evaluate the experience of those states that are now using alternative deicing agents and have climates and topographies similar to Virginia's. On the basis of this evaluation, the Department is requested to propose a strategy for limited use of alternative deicing agents that concentrates the use of such agents on highway structures that are very costly or difficult to replace.

The Department shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1995 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

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