

1995 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 527

Offered January 23, 1995

Requesting the Departments of Education and Correctional Education to examine the student transfers between the public education system and the detention and learning centers.

Patron—Tata

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Virginia's detention centers and learning centers receive children who have encountered difficulties with the law; and

WHEREAS, many of these children are also experiencing academic failure in the public schools; and
WHEREAS, some educators believe that the time in the detention and learning centers should be well spent, especially in view of the restricted and controlled environment; and

WHEREAS, these same educators say that, in fact, many of these children do little or no studying while in the learning or detention centers because of the shortness of their stays and inadequacy of the resources; and

WHEREAS, this is also understandable and predictable, in light of the emotionally charged situation in which the young person who is being detained finds himself; and

WHEREAS, the exits and admissions of these students from and into the public school system are frequently at awkward times, such as during the middle of the school year, in the middle of the term or semester, or at the very end of the school year; and

WHEREAS, the timing of these exits and admissions cannot be planned, but nonetheless they have an adverse impact on the ability of these students to overcome their academic difficulties and achieve an acceptable level of socialization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Departments of Education and Correctional Education be requested to examine the timing of student transfers between the public education system and the detention and learning centers. In this study, the Departments are further requested to examine the effects of the regional alternative education programs and whether these programs have helped stabilize this situation and to evaluate administrative modifications and innovative ways for the two educational systems to cooperate in assisting these students to become responsible and educated adults.

The Departments shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1996 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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