

## 1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 532

*Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the feasibility of incorporating videoconferencing into Virginia's magistrate system.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 4, 1995

Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 1995

WHEREAS, the Commission on the Future of Virginia's Judicial System recommended that "an expanded range of magistrate services" be established using full-time magistrates in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the demand for services of magistrates is increasing while funding is not; and

WHEREAS, many rural areas of the Commonwealth struggle to maintain the services required; and

WHEREAS, the use of electronic equipment, specifically "videoconferencing" equipment, would improve, expand, and facilitate the delivery of services for both magistrates and recipients; and

WHEREAS, videoconferencing, if implemented, should be uniform across the Commonwealth to assure that systems can electronically communicate; 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 feasibility of incorporating videoconferencing into Virginia's magistrate system. The study shall include (i) determining the current efficacy of magistrate coverage across the Commonwealth, (ii) determining the fiscal impact of such a statewide system, and (iii) investigating cost-effective options for a uniform system.

The Commission is requested to include the findings and recommendations of this study in its report on the administration of justice pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 263 (1995) as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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