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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 554

House Amendments in [] — February 4, 1997

Requesting the [Virginia Water Project, Inc., the Southeast Rural Communities Assistance Project with representation from the] Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, in conjunction with the Commonwealth's public and private water and water treatment providers, to [~~initiate~~ study] an indoor plumbing assistance program through voluntary invoice contributions to assist low-income households.

Patrons—Darner and Rhodes

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

WHEREAS, during the past decade various public, private, and nonprofit organizations in the Commonwealth have sponsored a variety of programs designed to assist households living with inadequate residential water and wastewater facilities; and

WHEREAS, despite the success of these programs, thousands of lower income Virginians continue to live in housing lacking the most basic water and wastewater facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that at least 53,000 housing units in Virginia are without any indoor plumbing facilities, and over 90,000 housing units in Virginia are utilizing sewage disposal means — generally outdoor privies — other than septic tank or public sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, as governmental sources of funding for housing improvement programs become more limited, there is an increased need to find alternative means of financing indoor plumbing efforts; and

WHEREAS, one option for encouraging voluntary private sector assistance is the establishment of a special fund to which Virginia residents could contribute through their water and sewer utility invoices — a program similar to the one established by Virginia Power to provide assistance to low-income household for energy and heating costs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia [Water Project, Inc., the Southeast Rural Communities Assistance Project with representation from the Virginia] Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, in conjunction with the Commonwealth's public and private water and water treatment providers, be requested to [~~initiate~~ study] an indoor plumbing assistance program through voluntary invoice contributions to assist low-income households; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Virginia [Water Project, Inc., the Southeast Rural Communities Assistance Project and the Virginia] Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties to apprise them of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

The Virginia [Water Project, Inc., the Southeast Rural Communities Assistance Project and the Virginia] Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties are requested to complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

ENGROSSED

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