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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 609

House Amendments in [] — January 30, 1997

[*Establishing a joint subcommittee Requesting the Division of Tourism*] to study the need for the construction of major convention facilities throughout the Commonwealth.

Patrons—Croshaw, Purkey, Tata, Wagner and Wardrup; Senators: Earley, Schrock and Stolle

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, tourism and conventions are a major industry throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, convention-goers spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, many localities and states throughout the nation are constructing large-scale convention facilities, thus creating greater competition for conventions and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the convention industry in Virginia believes that there is a need to construct several large facilities throughout the Commonwealth in order for Virginia to remain competitive in the convention and tourism industry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That [a joint subcommittee be established the Division of Tourism be requested] to study the need for the construction of major convention facilities throughout the Commonwealth. [The joint subcommittee shall also study the desirability of the Commonwealth participating in the cost of constructing major convention facilities, the possible sources of revenue, the cost to state and local governments of participating in the construction of major convention facilities, and the cost of not remaining competitive in this industry.

The joint subcommittee shall be composed of nine members as follows: four members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; and two local government representatives, one recommended by the Virginia Municipal League, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one recommended by the Virginia Association of Counties, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$4,200.

The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the study.] All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the [joint subcommittee Division] , upon request.

The [joint subcommittee Division] shall complete its work in time to submit its 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.

[Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.]

ENGROSSED

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