

1997 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 302

Offered January 20, 1997

Expressing the sense of the General Assembly on the western region of the Commonwealth and proclaiming 1997 "The Year of the Mountains."

Patrons—Edwards, Couric, Hanger, Marye, Miller, K.G., Newman, Potts, Reasor, Reynolds, Trumbo and Wampler; Delegates: Cranwell, Thomas and Woodrum

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the mountains and valleys of the western region of the Commonwealth offer a rich diversity of Virginia's geographic character, scenic beauty, native wildlife, and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the western region of the Commonwealth encompasses more than one-third of Virginia's land and contains a mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, many issues of a unique nature face the citizens and communities in the western region of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, some of those issues include transportation, economic development, housing, water and sewer infrastructure, environmental quality, cultural and recreational activities, and the need to revitalize the small towns and cities; and

WHEREAS, one of the most dominant issues facing the western region is the ability to promote economic development while preserving the rural character, cultural heritage, and environmental integrity of the region's mountains and valleys; and

WHEREAS, several strategic planning efforts have been undertaken by various citizens and organizations in an effort to create a vision for the future of the western region of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to review all of the strategic planning efforts that have been undertaken in an effort to help the citizens and organizations work cooperatively to improve the quality of life in the western region of the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That it is the sense of the General Assembly to express appreciation for all of the work that has been undertaken by various citizens and organizations to create a vision for the future for the western region of the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That it is the sense of the General Assembly to encourage efforts to review all of the strategic plans in an effort to help the citizens and organizations work cooperatively to pursue common issues of concern to improve the quality of life in the western region of the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That it is the sense of the General Assembly, in recognition of all of the foregoing, to proclaim 1997 "The Year of the Mountains," and to request that the Governor and all departments, agencies, and institutions of the Commonwealth support such proclamation; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the planning district commissions, elected and appointed local government officials, and presidents and chairmen of economic development, tourism, and environmental organizations and chambers of commerce located in the western region of the Commonwealth that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

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