

1998 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

Offered January 15, 1998

Designating June 21-27, 1998, as "World Congress on Information Technology Week."

Patrons—Plum, Almand, Bennett, Diamonstein, May and Scott; Senators: Howell, Newman, Schrock and Ticer

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the 1998 World Congress on Information Technology will be held from June 21-24 at George Mason University in Fairfax County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Congress is the premiere event for worldwide information technology leaders to meet, establish business relationships, and learn about industry trends, emerging technologies, and innovative industry developments; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that as many as 2,000 government officials and chairmen, presidents, chief executive officers, chief operating officers, and other senior-level executives, representing information technology firms from approximately 50 countries worldwide, will participate in the 1998 World Congress; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the 1998 World Congress, "When the Convergence of Information Technology Meets Consumer Demand," will bring together world information technology leaders to discuss emerging global markets and how legal, political, and economic trends affect business opportunities in each market; and

WHEREAS, the Congress is a biennial event, dating back to 1978, and past and future hosts include Yokohama, Japan (1994), Bilbao, Spain (1996), Taiwan (2000), and Australia (2002); and

WHEREAS, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), an international organization of 25 associations representing the information technology industry in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia Pacific, the Middle East, and Africa, serves as the oversight organization for the Congress; and

WHEREAS, in November 1995, WITSA awarded the 11th (1998) World Congress on Information Technology to the United States and its U.S. association member, the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), located in Arlington, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the ITAA partnered with the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority in an international competition to win the honor of hosting the 1998 World Congress; and

WHEREAS, the 1998 World Congress draws unique international attention to Virginia and its information technology businesses and industries; provides visibility and networking opportunities for its participants; energizes the Commonwealth's economy with tax revenues, business partnerships, and new jobs; stimulates involvement for businesses and community groups in Northern Virginia and George Mason University; has the potential to dramatically improve consumer information technology products; and creates a permanent legacy between the Commonwealth and worldwide information technology leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the County of Fairfax are the two "pinnacle sponsors" of the 1998 World Congress and, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 682, the 1997 General Assembly has previously commended the organizers of the 1998 World Congress on Information Technology; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby proclaim the week of June 21-27, 1998, as "World Congress on Information Technology Week" ; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the World Information Technology and Services Alliance, the Information Technology Association of America, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and the President of George Mason University in order that they may be apprised of the action of the Virginia General Assembly in this matter.

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