

# 1999 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 674

Offered January 21, 1999

*Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study the feasibility, desirability, benefits, and costs of a rail connection between one of the proposed rail stations in Loudoun County and the "Red Line" in Montgomery County, Maryland.*

Patrons—McClure and Weatherholtz

Referred to Committee on Transportation

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of trained personnel in Northern Virginia to meet the demands of business in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a substantial amount of the need for employees in Northern Virginia has been or could be met by employees living in nearby Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Virginia residents also commute for employment from Virginia to Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the traffic between Maryland and Virginia is likely to increase due to the rapid growth in the Greater Dulles area; and

WHEREAS, residents in Virginia and Maryland are involved in substantial travel between Virginia and Maryland which often now must take place on an overcrowded and heavily taxed I-495; and

WHEREAS, planning is underway to have rail and bus service extended to Leesburg in the Dulles corridor, with the prospect of three rail stations in Loudoun County; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has rail service in Montgomery County, that could be connected to rail service along the Dulles Corridor, providing a method of transportation between the Greater Dulles area and Maryland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation be requested to study the feasibility, desirability, benefits, and costs of a rail connection between one of the proposed rail stations in Loudoun County and the "Red Line" in Montgomery County, Maryland. The departments are requested to examine which of the proposed Loudoun County stations would be the best western terminus for this connection. The Departments are requested to seek the cooperation of the Maryland Department of Transportation in examining the most appropriate terminus in Maryland. The study shall examine the willingness of Maryland and its affected local governments to cooperate with the construction of such a rail connection. The study shall examine alternative routes and the most feasible Potomac River crossings, the impacts of various crossings on local communities and the environment, the likely usage of such a connection for various route and terminal alternatives, alternatives to the use of heavy rail, the use of alternative technology systems, land acquisition costs, and a range of costs for various systems that are likely to be employed.

The Departments shall complete their work in time to submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2001 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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