

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 Establishing a joint subcommittee to study science, math, and technology education in the
2 Commonwealth. Report.

3 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a tradition of leadership in emerging industries,
4 such as nanotechnology, modeling and simulation, biotechnology, and other innovative science and
5 technology fields; and

6 WHEREAS, ensuring that the Commonwealth can continue to provide an educated and trained
7 workforce in fields related to science, math, and technology is crucial to attracting viable research and
8 business entities in the Commonwealth that will allow Virginia to continue to provide this leadership;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the number of students pursuing science, math, and technology degrees is not
11 keeping pace with the number of students in liberal arts programs; and

12 WHEREAS, representatives from both the business and education community have indicated to
13 the Joint Commission on Technology and Science that increased emphasis on science, math, and
14 technology education is necessary at the primary and secondary level in order to interest students in
15 careers in science and technology; and

16 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that the curricula of Virginia's public schools provide an
17 adequate foundation for students to continue successful studies of science, math, and technology at
18 institutions of higher education; and

19 WHEREAS, it is also important to provide appropriate incentives for students to engage in
20 continued science, math, and technology education at the undergraduate and graduate levels at our state
21 supported institutions of higher education, such as through the use of specialized loan and grant
22 programs; and

23 WHEREAS, increased emphasis on science, math, and technology education at all levels and
24 access to these educational opportunities by students in all regions of the Commonwealth will ensure
25 that Virginia can continue to be a leader in the science and technology sector; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint subcommittee be
27 established to study science, math, and technology education in the Commonwealth at the elementary,
28 secondary, and undergraduate levels. The joint subcommittee shall also study ways to provide incentives
29 for students to pursue careers in these sectors. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of
30 14 that shall consist of eight legislative members, two nonlegislative citizen members, and four ex
31 officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: five members of the House of Delegates to be
32 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate to be appointed by the
33 Senate Committee on Rules; one nonlegislative citizen member who shall be a member of a local school
34 board in the Commonwealth to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and one
35 nonlegislative citizen member who shall be a professor of science, math, or technology-related courses
36 at a state institution of higher education to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The
37 Secretary of Finance, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the Virginia
38 Community College System, and the President of the Center for Innovative Technology, or their
39 designees, shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint
40 subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing
41 by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall
42 be reimbursed only for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the
43 purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written
44 authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice-
45 chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

46 In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall review the curriculum of existing public
47 schools in the Commonwealth, including Governor's Schools and other specialized schools devoted to
48 math, science, or technology; study accessibility to specialized schools by students throughout the
49 Commonwealth; examine the Standards of Learning criteria for math and science to ensure that students

50 are provided with the fundamentals necessary for successful continuation of science, math, and
51 technology education at the college level; review and recommend innovative ways to interest students at
52 all education levels in science, math, and technology; study the feasibility of establishing loans for
53 undergraduate graduate students majoring in math, science, or technology-related fields that may be
54 forgiven if a student enters a related career field in the Commonwealth after graduation; and examine the
55 possibility of encouraging partnerships between educators at the Commonwealth's public schools and
56 institutions of higher education, as well as with business and research entities in the science and
57 technology sectors located in the Commonwealth.

58 Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of
59 Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee
60 shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall
61 provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

62 The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2006 interim and four meetings
63 for the 2007 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$9,200 for each year without
64 approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall
65 require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a
66 companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall
67 be required.

68 No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House
69 members or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the
70 recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the
71 joint subcommittee.

72 The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2006, and
73 for the second year by November 30, 2007, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative
74 Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first
75 day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall
76 state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a

77 report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The
78 executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of
79 Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be
80 posted on the General Assembly's website.

81 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
82 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or
83 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2006 or 2007
84 interim.

85 #