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1 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 *Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to update its 2016 study of the impact of*  
5 *regulations on Virginia's manufacturing sector. Report.*

6 Patron—Helmer

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 360 (2005) directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review  
9 Commission (JLARC) to evaluate the total cost of compliance by Virginia manufacturers with state and  
10 federal environmental, economic, workplace, and tax regulations and to compare the cost of regulatory  
11 compliance borne by Virginia manufacturers with the costs of regulatory compliance borne by manufacturers  
12 in other Mid-Atlantic and Southern states; and13 WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission completed its study in November 2006  
14 (Senate Document No. 18) and estimated that Virginia manufacturers spent between \$923 million and \$3.49  
15 billion in 2005 in complying with state and federal regulations, which averages between \$3,121 and \$11,791  
16 per employee as estimated by JLARC; and17 WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study also concluded that Virginia's  
18 manufacturing sector lost approximately 66,000 jobs between 2000 and 2005; and19 WHEREAS, while the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission concluded that Virginia's  
20 regulations do not greatly expand upon federal regulations, it is crucial for the economic vitality of Virginia's  
21 manufacturers that this remains the case; and22 WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 274 (2015) directed JLARC to update the research and analysis  
23 performed by JLARC in 2005 to provide General Assembly members with more current information for use  
24 in crafting regulatory policies in Virginia; and25 WHEREAS, JLARC completed its study in October 2016 (Senate Document No. 13) and estimated that  
26 Virginia manufacturers spent between \$942 million and \$4.84 billion in 2014 in complying with state and  
27 federal regulations; and28 WHEREAS, the JLARC study also concluded that Virginia's manufacturing employment declined by 22  
29 percent, or 64,289 jobs, between 2005 and 2014; however, since 2010, Virginia's manufacturing employment  
30 increased by about one percent, or just over 1,500 jobs, as estimated by JLARC; now, therefore, be it31 **RESOLVED** by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and  
32 Review Commission be directed to update its 2016 study of the impact of regulations on Virginia's  
33 manufacturing sector.34 In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall (i) estimate the current  
35 costs to Virginia manufacturers to comply with federal and state regulations and provide an explanation of  
36 how current costs differ from costs evaluated in 2016; (ii) evaluate the degree to which Virginia expands  
37 upon federal regulations; (iii) review major actions taken by state agencies since 2016 that have either  
38 increased or decreased the costs of regulatory compliance for Virginia manufacturers; (iv) compare the costs  
39 of regulatory compliance by industry sectors in Virginia, including manufacturing; and (v) to the extent data  
40 is available, compare the costs of regulatory compliance borne by Virginia manufacturers with the costs of  
41 regulatory compliance borne by manufacturers in other Mid-Atlantic and Southern states.42 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review  
43 Commission for this study, upon request.44 The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings for the first year by  
45 November 30, 2026, and for the second year by November 30, 2027, and the Director shall submit to the  
46 Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no  
47 later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive  
48 summary shall state whether JLARC intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of  
49 its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries  
50 and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated  
51 Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General  
52 Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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