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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 56

Offered January 16, 2026

Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the potential effects of revising the distribution of 599 funding to distressed localities with high crime and poverty rates. Report.

Patron—Pope Adams

Committee Referral Pending

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia sets out a distribution formula for calculating the amount of 599 funds distributed to eligible localities; and

11 WHEREAS, in recent years, the General Assembly has instead specified in the appropriation act that
12 localities' allocations in a given fiscal year are to be based on a standard, across-the-board percentage increase
13 or decrease; and

13 of decrease, and
14 WHEREAS, the distribution formula has, in effect, been superseded during those years by the instructions
15 in the appropriation act; and

16 WHEREAS, distressed localities with high crime and poverty rates would benefit from additional 599
17 funding; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and
19 Review Commission be directed to study the potential effects of revising the distribution of 599 funding to
20 distressed localities with high crime and poverty rates.

21 In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall (i) examine the recent
22 allocations of 599 funding provided for in the appropriation act, (ii) confer with distressed localities to
23 determine the necessity of additional 599 funding, and (iii) determine the effect on crime and poverty rates in
24 localities that receive additional funding.

25 Technical assistance shall be provided to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission by the
26 Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties. All agencies of the Commonwealth
27 shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission for this study, upon request.

28 The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2026,
29 and the chair shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its
30 findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2027 Regular Session of the General
31 Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission
32 intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for
33 publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as
34 provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative
35 documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.