

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200076D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 643

Offered May 13, 2024

Prefiled May 13, 2024

4 *Commending the Virginia First Cities Coalition.*

5 Patrons—Scott, D., Anthony, Askew, Austin, Batten, Callsen, Campbell, Carr, Clark, Convirs-Fowler, Cordoza, Cousins, Coyner, Gardner, Glass, Green, Hayes, Helmer, Henson, Hernandez, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Marshall, McQuinn, Phillips, Price, Rasoul, Reid, Simonds, Srinivasan, Taylor, Walker, Ward, Wiley and Wilt

6 WHEREAS, for 25 years, the Virginia First Cities Coalition has protected and bolstered the
7 Commonwealth's older, core cities by securing funding for education, transportation, housing,
8 infrastructure, public safety, and other programs that enhance community life; and

9 WHEREAS, Virginia First Cities Coalition was established to provide specialized advocacy programs
10 and build collaborative solutions to address the unique needs of older cities; and

11 WHEREAS, Virginia First Cities Coalition represents the cities of Charlottesville, Danville, Hampton,
12 Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lexington, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg,
13 Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, Staunton, Williamsburg, and Winchester; its Board of Directors
14 comprises the city manager and an elected city council member or mayor from each of these member
15 cities; and

16 WHEREAS, Virginia First Cities Coalition recognizes that economic and social issues within cities
17 can affect neighboring localities and the revitalization of those cities can provide significant social and
18 financial benefits to the region; the organization works to identify inequities between urban and
19 suburban communities and advocates for appropriate regional and state policies; and

20 WHEREAS, among many successes, Virginia First Cities Coalition championed initiatives to raise
21 funding for early childhood education and programs for at-risk students; secured additional funding for
22 primary road extensions, street maintenance, and public transportation in cities; and oversaw increases in
23 aid to local police departments, helped reform juvenile justice procedures, and worked to restore funding
24 for community day reporting and diversion centers for nonviolent offenders; and

25 WHEREAS, Virginia First Cities Coalition has helped its member cities receive industrial and port
26 facility revitalization funds, historic rehabilitation tax credits, financial assistance for small businesses,
27 and other neighborhood restoration funding; and

28 WHEREAS, Virginia First Cities Coalition emphasizes the importance of community wealth building
29 in its programs to support employment and job growth to help cities attract and retain talented workers
30 and thriving businesses; now, therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Virginia First Cities Coalition hereby be
32 commended on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and, be it

33 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
34 for presentation to the Virginia First Cities Coalition as an expression of the House of Delegates'
35 admiration for its legacy of service to the Commonwealth's cities.

INTRODUCED

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