

1 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.**

2 Offered

3 *RESOLUTION requesting the Commonwealth of Virginia to encourage enhancing and expanding*  
4 *international educational programs, and expressing support for international education exchange*  
5 *programs.*

6 -----  
7  
8 Patrons--

9 -----  
10 Referred to

11 -----  
12  
13 WHEREAS, international education is a crucial component of higher education in Virginia which  
14 contributes to the economy of the Commonwealth and to a diverse educational environment that  
15 enhances academic programs, and

16  
17 WHEREAS, tourism and foreign trade are key sectors in Virginia's economy, making it imperative  
18 for the Commonwealth to promote mutual understanding between its citizens and those of other  
19 countries, and

20  
21 WHEREAS, strong international education programs at colleges and universities offers evidence of  
22 the Commonwealth's commitment to enhancing its role as a global citizen and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Virginia currently enrolls more than XXXX students from more than YYYY  
25 countries as full time, part time, and or exchange students,

26  
27 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth for its institutions of higher education to  
28 provide students with the opportunity to acquire the intercultural skills to interact effectively within  
29 a multicultural context; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, international education curricular offerings address global issues and provide in depth  
32 understanding of other cultures, while acknowledging that the development of new knowledge and  
33 technological breakthroughs often require international collaboration; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, today's increasingly complex global trade relations increasingly calls for  
36 consideration of the global environment, world conflicts, and

37  
38 WHEREAS, the support of international education has become increasingly important to our  
39 national security, foreign policy, economic competitiveness and capacity for tolerance; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, learning about other cultures and languages through study, living overseas, and  
42 interacting with people of other countries promotes the free exchange of ideas, allows us to seek  
43 joint solutions to problems, and helps create lasting partnerships to meet our shared  
44 concerns; therefore be it  
45

46 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the General Assembly hereby  
47 recognizes that international students and scholars of the Commonwealth contribute significantly to  
48 the cultural diversity of Virginia's educational institutions, enhance the educational experience of  
49 all students while making important contributions, and thereby supports the participation of  
50 Virginia's students, international students, and professors in international studies, international  
51 exchange programs and other activities that advance cultural awareness and promote mutual  
52 understanding and respect for the citizens of other countries; and be it further

53  
54 RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth of Virginia's colleges and universities are encouraged to:

- 55  
56 1. develop courses of study and academic programs to increase students' understanding of global  
57 issues and cultural differences;
- 58 2. further develop courses in foreign languages to prepare students to seek careers in a global  
59 marketplace and enhance their understanding of other nations' values;
- 60 3. provide opportunities for students in all majors to participate in programs to study abroad to  
61 enrich their academic training, intercultural perspectives and personal development;
- 62 4. provide opportunities for domestic and international students to interact effectively and routinely  
63 to share their views, perceptions and experiences; and
- 64 5. develop innovative public educational programs, methods, and venues to explore global issues  
65 and world cultures; and

66  
67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Education prepare and transmit a copy of  
68 this resolution to the Board of the State Council of Higher Education, to the Board of Visitors and  
69 President of each public college and university, and to the Chancellor of the Community College  
70 System.