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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO 45.

(By Delegates Ennis, M. Poling, Barill, Crosier, Rowan, D. Campbell, Lawrence, Moye, Paxton, Pethel, Perry, Rodighiero, Shaver, Smith, Walker, Duke, Sumner, Armstead, Ellington, Gearheart, Pasdon, Savilla and Sigler)

[Originating in the Committee on Education]

(February 3, 2011)

Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to conduct a study on the educational and communication barriers facing children in West Virginia who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families, and on the adequacy and enforcement of current laws that address these barriers.

WHEREAS, Hearing loss impacts the most basic of humans needs, which is the ability to communicate with other human beings; and

WHEREAS, Children who are deaf or hard of hearing communicate using various communication modes including sign language, speech and other means; and

WHEREAS, There are currently more than three hundred seventy-five children who are deaf or hard of hearing in this state between the ages of birth and twenty-one years; and

WHEREAS, Young children who are deaf or hard of hearing typically lack significant English language skills; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing require specialized instruction, services, equipment and

1 materials; and

2 WHEREAS, Receiving such provisions is critical to the
3 education, development and success of children who are deaf or
4 hard of hearing, yet the provisions may not be administered
5 adequately to sufficiently meet the needs of children in this
6 state who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

7 WHEREAS, Significant barriers exist for individuals who are
8 deaf or hard of hearing in our current education system and must
9 be addressed; and

10 WHEREAS, The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard
11 of Hearing aids individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in
12 their efforts to live independent and productive lives; and

13 WHEREAS, The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard
14 of Hearing would be a valuable resource in exploring the needs of
15 and obstacles faced by children who are deaf or hard of hearing;
16 therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

18 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
19 requested to study the educational and communication barriers
20 facing children in West Virginia who are deaf or hard of hearing
21 and their families, and the adequacy and enforcement of current
22 laws that address these barriers; and, be it

23 *Further Resolved,* That the said Joint Committee on
24 Government and Finance is requested to report to the regular

1 session of the Legislature, 2012, on its findings, conclusions
2 and recommendations, together with drafts of any legislation
3 necessary to effectuate its recommendations; and, be it

4 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct
5 this study, to prepare a report and draft necessary legislation
6 are requested to be paid from legislative appropriations to the
7 Joint Committee on Government and Finance.