

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 651**

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

*Expressing the commitment of the Commonwealth to the principles represented by the Electoral College.*

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Patrons—Ware, Blevins, Dudley, Jones, S.C., Louderback, Purkey and Rapp  
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Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections  
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WHEREAS, the remarkable events of the presidential election of 2000 summon all Virginians, of whatever political party or persuasion, to a renewed reflection on the principles of republican government and its ability to extend political liberty to a divers and complex society; and

WHEREAS, the United States consists of one democratic people whose passion for political liberty is best preserved through republican and federal forms of government – including the election of the President; and

WHEREAS, the democratic interest is exercised through the ballot and the federal structure of our government is represented by the Electoral College; and

WHEREAS, the genius of the Electoral College was admirably defined by Virginia’s James Madison in the Federalist, number 39;

“The executive power will be derived from a very compound source. The immediate election of the President is to be made by the States in their political characters. The votes allotted to them are in a compound ratio, which considers them partly as distinct and coequal societies, partly as unequal members of the same society.”

WHEREAS, the dynamics of the Electoral College reflect the diversity of the nation and the healthy tension between the less populous vast regions of the United States and the urban centers embracing denser concentrations of its populations; and

WHEREAS, the Electoral College and the federal structure of government ensure a balance of power among the states and between the states and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this complex and finely balanced structure serves to protect the nation’s republican form of government and permits its citizens to enjoy and unequalled degree of democratic liberty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly of Virginia express its commitment to the Electoral College for its embodiment of the well-balanced framework of this nation’s state and federal governments and its role in assuring the preservation of the liberty enjoyed by all citizens; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representative, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the Virginia General Assembly in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk transmit copies of this resolution to the legislatures of the other states that they may be informed of this action by the General Assembly and requested to adopt a similar resolve: and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk transmit a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for circulation to the teachers of history and government in the Commonwealth’s schools so that Virginia’s students may be acquainted with the principles of this nation’s republican and federal form of government and the role of this Commonwealth’s leaders in the framing of the Electoral College and this nation’s well-designed system of ordered liberty.