

## Study Resolution

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### Shifting State Demographics

Authorized by the Commission on November 7, 2024

WHEREAS, between 2020 and 2023 Virginia's population grew by less than one percent, which is similar to national trends but less than some nearby states; and

WHEREAS, statewide trends mask regional and local variation in population changes; for example, the regions of Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia have experienced out-migration while the Richmond metro area and rural areas have experienced in-migration, and local population changes ranged from an increase of 11.9 percent in New Kent County to a decrease of -5.7 percent in Buchanan County; and

WHEREAS, demographic analysis shows that Virginians are moving out of the state's large metro areas and into smaller metro areas and rural counties, and in 2023 the majority of Virginia's rural counties had more people move into them than out; and

WHEREAS, such trends are likely to impact important economic indicators (such as housing costs), and demand for state and local services (such as through public school enrollments); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission that staff be directed to review Virginia's historical and projected demographic shifts and their impact on the state and regional economies. In conducting its study staff shall (i) identify trends in in- and out-migration, births, and deaths at the state, local, and regional levels; (ii) examine the relevant demographic characteristics of the individuals contributing to these trends, including race and ethnicity, education levels, employment and income, and age; (iii) estimate the revenue and economic impacts of these trends on the state, its regions, and localities; (iv) identify potential functions of government that could be impacted by these trends; and (v) identify topics for future JLARC studies.

JLARC may make recommendations as necessary and may review other issues as warranted.

All agencies of the Commonwealth, including the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority, the Virginia Department of Taxation, the Virginia Department of Health, and Virginia local governments shall provide assistance, information, and data to JLARC for this study, upon request. JLARC may use consultants as necessary to complete the study. JLARC staff shall have access to all information in the possession of agencies pursuant to § 30-59 and § 30-69 of the Code of Virginia. No provision of the Code of Virginia shall be interpreted as limiting or restricting the access of JLARC staff to information pursuant to its statutory authority.