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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 385
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules
on February 19, 2001)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Hanger)

Continuing the Commission on Educational Accountability.

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution 498 established the Commission in 1999 to study educational accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was directed to examine a plethora of issues, and was to review the Standards of Accreditation and the accountability mechanisms included therein as well as monitor the implementation of the Standards of Learning and assessments; and

WHEREAS, in meeting the directives of SJR 498, the Commission was to consider the work and recommendations of other named education study committees and develop recommendations for ways to increase the capacity of schools, teachers, and students to meet increasingly rigorous academic standards; and

WHEREAS, also among the Commission's duties were an examination of the effects on the Commonwealth's young people of failure to obtain a diploma pursuant to requirements of the Standards of Accreditation for Public Schools in Virginia; an evaluation of the Commonwealth's statutes, regulations, and policies governing the academic assessment of students who transfer into Virginia's public schools; a determination of the feasibility and appropriateness of establishing a certificate of completion for certain vocational programs in public high schools; and a study of the instructional needs of students and teachers in the public schools of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was also to determine the efficacy and appropriateness of the Commonwealth's system of funding the Standards of Quality for public schools and to examine the effect of the Standards of Learning and the Standards of Accreditation on teachers, urban and small rural school divisions, and educationally at-risk students; and

WHEREAS, collaborating with the Commission in its multifaceted mission were three task forces, addressing issues as diverse as workforce needs of the 21st century (HJR 566—1999), the fiscal impact of the Standards of Accreditation (HJR 723—1999), and assessments for students in special education (HJR 302—2000); and

WHEREAS, also assigned to the Commission by the 2000 Session of the General Assembly were the continuation of the work of the Joint Subcommittee on Remediation pursuant to HJR 302, and a study of the demand for and supply of classroom teachers pursuant to HJR 159 and SJR 248; and

WHEREAS, with the adoption of final revisions to the Standards of Accreditation by the Board of Education in fall 2000, ongoing efforts to improve student performance on as well as the administration of the Standards of Learning assessments, and the phasing in of school accreditation requirements, the issue of educational accountability will continue to be a primary concern for legislators, educators, parents, and students; and

WHEREAS, another year of study will enable the Commission to pursue more fully its mission and to address more effectively the myriad of educational accountability issues assigned to it; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Commission on Educational Accountability be continued for one year. The Commission shall consist of 25 members, which shall include 14 legislative members, eight nonlegislative members, and three ex officio members to be appointed as follows: six members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; eight members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; one parent of a child who is enrolled in the public schools of the Commonwealth, one public school teacher, and one school principal, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; one division superintendent, one representative of the Virginia School Boards Association, and three citizens at large, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and the Secretary of Education, the President of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, who shall serve ex officio with full voting privileges; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Special Task Force of the Commission on Educational Accountability to Study the Educational Needs of the 21st Century be continued. The special task force shall consist of 16 members, which shall include six legislative members, five nonlegislative members, and five ex officio members as follows: two members of the Senate, of whom one shall be a member of the Commission on Educational Accountability, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; four members of the House of Delegates, of whom two shall be members of the

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60 Commission on Educational Accountability, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, in accordance
61 with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; two
62 citizens representing the business community and public education grades K-12, to be appointed by the
63 Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; three citizens representing public higher education and
64 industry, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and the Secretary of Education; the Secretary of
65 Commerce and Trade; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Chancellor of the Virginia
66 Community College System; and the Director of the State Council of Higher Education, who shall serve
67 ex officio with full voting privileges. The chairman and vice-chairman of the Special Task Force on the
68 Educational Needs of the 21st Century shall be members of the Virginia General Assembly; and, be it

69 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Special Task Force of the Commission on Educational
70 Accountability to Examine the Impact of the Standards of Accreditation on Local School Division
71 Budgets be continued. The special task force shall consist of 10 legislative members as follows: four
72 members of the Senate, of whom two shall be members of the Commission on Educational
73 Accountability, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; and six members
74 of the House of Delegates, of whom three shall be members of the Commission on Educational
75 Accountability to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, in accordance with the principles of
76 proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; and, be it

77 RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Special Task Force of the Commission on Educational
78 Accountability to Examine the Need for Appropriate Alternative Forms of Standards of Learning
79 Assessments for Students Receiving Special Education and Related Services be continued. The special
80 task force shall consist of 10 members of the Commission on Educational Accountability to be
81 appointed as follows: four members to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and
82 Elections and six members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, in accordance with the
83 principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates.

84 The Division of Legislative Services shall continue to provide staff support for the Commission and
85 its special task forces.

86 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

87 The direct costs of the Special Task Force of the Commission on Educational Accountability to
88 Study the Educational Needs of the 21st Century shall not exceed \$6,000, representing three meetings
89 during the 2001 legislative interim.

90 The direct costs of the Special Task Force of the Commission on Educational Accountability to
91 Examine the Impact of the Standards of Accreditation on Local School Division Budgets shall not
92 exceed \$7,500, representing three meetings during the 2001 legislative interim.

93 The direct costs of the Special Task Force of the Commission on Educational Accountability to
94 Examine the Need for Appropriate Alternative Forms of Standards of Learning Assessments for Students
95 Receiving Special Education and Related Services shall not exceed \$7,500, representing three meetings
96 during the 2001 legislative interim.

97 The direct costs of Commission on Educational Accountability shall not exceed \$17,200, representing
98 four meetings during the 2001 legislative interim.

99 The Commission on Educational Accountability and its task forces shall schedule their meetings
100 consecutively on the same date, to the extent practicable, to conserve costs.

101 The total direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$38,200, representing the sum of the direct costs
102 for the Commission and its task forces, during the 2001 legislative interim.

103 The Commission shall complete its work in time to submit its written findings and recommendations,
104 including the reports of its task forces, by November 30, 2001, to the Governor and the 2002 Session of
105 the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems
106 for the processing of legislative documents.

107 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
108 Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the
109 study.