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## SENATE BILL NO. 676

Offered January 20, 2006

A BILL to direct the Board of Education to develop a plan for the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton.

Patrons—Hanger; Delegate: Landes

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

1. § 1. Consolidation plan for the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton.

A. That the Board of Education shall develop a plan for the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton. In developing such plan, the Board shall receive comments from the boards of visitors and alumni of both schools and from the members of the General Assembly representing the jurisdictions in which the schools are located.

B. The consolidation plan, as it relates to the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton, shall provide for (i) the continuation of a state-administered, residential school in the Staunton area designed to accommodate up to 150 residential students; (ii) an analysis of the most cost-effective method for constructing a new facility or modifying the current facility that includes consideration of the use of public-private partnerships as well as the Commonwealth's competitive procurement process; and (iii) consideration for the recognition and preservation of the history of the existing school.

C. The consolidation plan, as it relates to the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton, shall provide for (i) a regional program to provide day services for multi-disabled students with vision and hearing impairments designed to accommodate up to 75 students; (ii) the transfer of property used by the school from the Commonwealth to a nonprofit educational entity that includes representatives from the Hampton Roads area; (iii) a recommended amount of state funding to be provided to the school; and (iv) consideration for the recognition and preservation of the history of the existing school.

D. In developing the plan, the Board shall consider whether the consolidation of the schools as provided in this section could result in the reduction of any services to students with visual or hearing impairments and, if so, shall include alternatives in the plan for providing such services to affected students in the Commonwealth.

E. The Board shall report its plan for the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled in Hampton to the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the House Committee on Education by November 30, 2006.

INTRODUCED

SB676