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SENATE BILL NO. 676

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
on February 2, 2006)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Hanger)

A BILL relating to the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. Consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton; Board of Education to develop certain plan.

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the residential programs of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton shall be modified as follows:

A. The Department of General Services is authorized to enter into a comprehensive agreement for the necessary renovations, additions, and new facility construction at the Staunton campus under traditional procurement or the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002.

The plan shall include appropriate reuse of existing historical buildings if they are not a part of the continuing mission of the school. Consideration shall be given to proposals that may transfer ownership to or establish long-term leases with private entities in partial or total compensation for the construction of needed new and renovated facilities for state use.

B. The Board of Education shall devise a plan to provide a regional program in the Hampton Roads area and may, with the Governor's approval, convey the current Hampton campus to an appropriate nonprofit or public entity in Hampton Roads to facilitate these services.

The plan shall include appropriate reuse of existing historical buildings if they are not a part of the continuing mission of the school. Consideration shall be given to proposals that may transfer ownership to or establish long-term leases with private entities in partial or total compensation for the construction of needed new and renovated facilities for continued use.

The plan shall be designed to meet the needs of the region's school systems as an option for all children with visual and/or hearing impairments and other disabilities.

C. Planning in both Hampton and Staunton shall include reuse of existing facilities as appropriate and a sensitivity to the need for preserving the history of the institutions.

The plan shall also include provisions for continued funding for the state-operated facility in Staunton and the regional program in Hampton.