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SENATE BILL NO. 676

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance
on February 8, 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 Department of General Services shall develop a plan for disposing of buildings and property no longer necessary for special education purposes. The Department of General Services shall work with the City of Staunton and the Department of Historic Resources when considering proposals that may transfer ownership to or establish long-term leases with private entities. The properties shall be conveyed with appropriate historic easements at fair market value with the proceeds reverting to the general fund to offset the cost of construction of the new facility.

B. The Department of Education shall assist with the coordination with appropriate local entities for the transition of services to a regional day program in the Hampton Roads area. The Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Board of Education 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. In addition, the Department of Education shall provide appropriate technical assistance to regional special education programs and school divisions statewide.

The Department of General Services shall develop a plan for disposing of buildings and property no longer necessary for special education purposes in the City of Hampton. The Department of General Services shall work with the City of Hampton and the Department of Historic Resources when considering proposals that may transfer ownership to or establish long-term leases with private entities. The properties shall be conveyed with appropriate historic easements at fair market value with the proceeds reverting to the general fund to offset the cost of construction of the new facility referenced in subsection A.

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 local regional day programs statewide.

2. That the capital project set forth in subsection A of § 1 of this act shall be funded in accordance with the general appropriation act passed by the 2006 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law.