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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 68

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled January 8, 2008

Establishing a joint subcommittee to study the level of state assistance to localities to assist with financing land acquisition, and the construction and renovation of school facilities. Report.

Patrons—Barker; Delegate: Nichols

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, public school divisions are experiencing school facility construction cost inflation rates that exceed eight percent; and

WHEREAS, many school divisions must compete with developers for the acquisition of land, and the competition substantially escalates their land acquisition costs; and

WHEREAS, many school divisions may incur over \$1 billion in school construction and renovation costs over the next decade due to student population growth; and

WHEREAS, school divisions urgently need innovative financing mechanisms that allow them to meet the increasing demand for facilities and the escalating costs of school construction and renovation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint subcommittee be established to study the level of state assistance to localities to assist with financing land acquisition, and the construction and renovation of school facilities. The joint subcommittee shall have a total membership of 13 members that shall consist of eight legislative members, two nonlegislative citizen members, and three ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; five members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; one nonlegislative citizen member with expertise in bond financing to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and one nonlegislative citizen member with expertise in school design and construction or public school capital funding to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of Finance, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designees shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the joint subcommittee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall elect a chairman and vice- chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall ascertain alternative methods of financing the construction and renovation of public school facilities in Virginia, including the feasibility of public-private partnerships.

Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint subcommittee shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Education, the Department of Treasury, and the staffs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint subcommittee for this study, upon request.

The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2008 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$8,800 without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint subcommittee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

No recommendation of the joint subcommittee shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the joint subcommittee (i) vote against the recommendation and (ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint subcommittee.

The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2008, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The

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59 executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee intends to submit to the General
60 Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or
61 Senate document. The executive summary and the report shall be submitted as provided in the
62 procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents
63 and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

64 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
65 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or
66 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2008 and 2009
67 interims.