

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 85

Establishing a joint committee of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education to study the future of public elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth. Report.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 11, 2016
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 10, 2016

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education consider a wide array of education-related legislative proposals during each regular session of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, many education-related legislative proposals require more discussion and study than the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education are able to devote to such proposals during a regular session of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education recognize the need to jointly examine innovative education reforms and emerging education issues on a year-round basis; and

WHEREAS, public elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth will benefit from a deliberate, thoughtful, coordinated, and year-round approach to legislative education reform; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a joint committee of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education be established to study the future of public elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth. The joint committee shall have a total membership of 13 members, consisting of six members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and seven members of the House Committee on Education to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the House Committee on Education. The joint committee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership.

In conducting its study, the joint committee shall collaborate with the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee, and other interested stakeholders to study (i) the need for revisions to or reorganization of the standards of quality with a particular emphasis on the effective use of educational technology, (ii) emerging education issues in the Commonwealth, and (iii) the future of public elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth and make legislative recommendations, as necessary.

In conducting its study, the joint committee shall establish and appoint members to work groups in distinct subject matter areas. Members of such work groups shall include representatives of the Department of Education, the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee, the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia School Boards Association, and such other interested stakeholders as the joint committee deems appropriate.

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 committee shall be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Additional research and advisory services as requested by the joint committee shall be provided by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission and the schools of education of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. Technical assistance shall be provided by the Department of Education. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint committee for this study, upon request.

The joint committee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2016 interim and four meetings for the 2017 interim. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the joint committee 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 committee shall be adopted if a majority of the Senate members or a majority of the House members of the joint committee (a) vote against the recommendation and (b) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the joint committee.

The joint committee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2016, and for the second year by November 30, 2017, 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 next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall state whether the joint committee intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries and reports shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during the 2016 and 2017 interims.