

1995 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 400

Requesting the Board of Education to consider applying for participation in Goals 2000 on behalf of the Commonwealth and urging the Governor to consider accepting such federal funds as may be set aside for Virginia's participation in Goals 2000.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 24, 1995

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 24, 1995

WHEREAS, education leaders have urged "systemic change in the way teaching and learning are practiced in the nation's elementary and secondary schools" due to alarming dropout rates and increasing numbers of unskilled graduates who are ill-prepared to enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Goals 2000, the national education reform legislation based on the six education goals initially articulated by the President and the nation's Governors at the 1989 Education Summit in Charlottesville, invites the 50 states to apply for participation in the education reform process; and

WHEREAS, legislation enacting Goals 2000, signed into law by the President in March 1994, provides funding for the states for systemic education reform; and

WHEREAS, the provision of a quality system of public education is a constitutional priority in the Commonwealth, as Article I, Section 15 of the Constitution of Virginia acknowledges the Jeffersonian ideal that "free government rests, as does all progress, upon the broadest possible diffusion of knowledge," and vests ultimate responsibility for public education with the General Assembly, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1; and

WHEREAS, recent and ongoing efforts within the executive and legislative branches, including the work of the Commission on Equity in Public Education and the Governor's Commission on Champion Schools, as well as the Board of Education, the entity charged with the responsibility of prescribing standards of quality for the public schools, subject to revision by the General Assembly, affirm the Commonwealth's unfailing commitment to continued improvement in the quality of its system of public education; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's participation in Goals 2000 would provide much-needed financial assistance for continuing efforts to improve educational opportunities in our public schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Board of Education be requested to consider applying for participation in Goals 2000 on behalf of the Commonwealth, provided that the federal government does not mandate or require specific curriculum changes without the approval of the Board of Education, and that the Governor be urged to consider accepting such federal funds as may be set aside for Virginia's participation in Goals 2000; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Board of Education and to the Governor that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

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