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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 196
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
 on March 4, 1996)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Bennett)

Establishing the Virginia Commission on the Future of Public Education.

WHEREAS, Virginia public education has developed significant strengths in the latter part of this century, responding to the needs of a modern Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, all of education is now challenged by major technological, social, and economic changes which dramatically alter the work of the State's schools, colleges, and universities; and

WHEREAS, the social and economic demands of the twenty-first century can be expected to place even greater emphasis upon the importance of an educated citizenry in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of Virginia industry stress that a strong educational system is needed to create and sustain a skilled workforce to enable Virginia to compete in global markets; and

WHEREAS, creativity and innovation in the delivery of vocational education will enhance the Commonwealth's ability to produce such a skilled and competitive workforce for the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, a critical standard by which public education should be measured is the extent to which it prepares all students to succeed in, and contribute to, the general well-being of a technologically advanced society; and

WHEREAS, the revised Standards of Learning will significantly strengthen academic standards, it is essential that a concerted effort be made to determine and provide a curriculum based on these new Standards and to supply, instructional materials, and related assessments to ensure that students acquire and are able to apply the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the next century; and

WHEREAS, the public schools are essential pathways to the workplace and to the Commonwealth's colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, given the challenges and demands of the 21st century, maintaining a system of high quality public education requires vision, strategic planning, and specific measurable goals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Commission on the Future of Public Education be established. The Commission shall develop a strategic vision for the public schools of the Commonwealth that prepares students for advanced or higher education and career employment, taking into account organization, curricula, pre-service and in-service teacher preparation, changing technology and the cost and funding of public education, as well as other related areas deemed appropriate by the commission. In the course of its deliberations, the Commission shall consider pertinent issues raised in the following resolutions introduced at the 1996 Regular Session of the General Assembly: House Joint Resolution 91, House Joint Resolution No. 11, House Joint Resolution No. 192, House Joint Resolution No. 249, Senate Joint Resolution No. 59, Senate Joint Resolution No. 76, and Senate Joint Resolution No. 112.

The Commission shall be composed of 18 members to be appointed as follows: five members of the House of Delegates, three of whom shall be members of the House Committee on Education, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate who serve on the Senate Committee on Education and Health, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; the Lieutenant Governor; the Secretary of Education; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and six eminent persons within and without the Commonwealth, two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, two of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. The Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System and the Director of the State Council of Higher Education shall provide assistance as requested.

The Commission shall seek the participation of persons with expertise and vision to assist the commission in its work. Such persons shall include, but not be limited to, parents, students, teachers, administrators, business leaders, local elected officials, and other interested citizens.

The Commission shall employ such independent staff as it deems necessary from such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose. Technical assistance shall be provided by the staffs of the Division of Legislative Services, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the Department of Education, the State Board for Community Colleges and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. All other agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$20,000.

60 The Commission may submit an interim report to the Governor and the 1997 General Assembly, and
61 shall complete its work in time to submit its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and
62 the 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative
63 Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

64 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint
65 Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the
66 study.