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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 76
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
 on February 7, 1996)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Hawkins)

Establishing a Virginia Commission on the Future of Public Education to study the efficacy and appropriateness of establishing full-time regional vocational high schools and an institute of industrial arts in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, the development of a skilled, educated workforce is essential to the future growth and prosperity of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in a global economy dominated by high productivity, advanced technology, and intense competition, it is imperative that educational opportunities for Virginia be based on the "underlying assumption . . . that every student can be educated to be a productive worker in a high wage, high skill society"; and

WHEREAS, designed to provide students with specific, marketable job skills, vocational education has enjoyed renewed focus and respect after witnessing declining enrollments nationally since 1984; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the diverse interests, talents, and educational needs of the Commonwealth's young people, the General Assembly has directed local school boards, pursuant to the Standards of Quality, to provide "competency-based vocational education programs, which integrate academic outcomes, career guidance and job-seeking skills for all secondary students . . . that reflect employment opportunities, labor market needs, applied basic skills, job-seeking skills, and career guidance"; and

WHEREAS, the Standards of Quality also require local school boards to provide academic and vocational preparation for students who plan to continue their education beyond secondary school or who plan to enter employment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the state agency designated to carry out the provisions of the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act, is statutorily directed to promote and administer the provision of agriculture, business, marketing, home economics, health, technology, trade and industrial education in the public middle and high schools, regional schools, postsecondary institutions, and certain institutions for youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, through their statutory authority to operate joint schools, 35 school divisions participate in regional vocational education centers that may not only supplement courses offered in high schools but also permit participating school divisions to offer a wider range of programs; and

WHEREAS, while the missions of these centers are consistent with the vocational education services mandated by the Standards of Quality, a full-time, regional vocational high school, combining the expertise and experience of educators and business leaders, might provide increased opportunities for creativity and innovation in the delivery of vocational education; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's system of higher education, comprised of two- and four-year institutions, provides a variety of degree programs and opportunities for continuing education and professional development; and

WHEREAS, while the diverse missions of these institutions encompass education, research, and economic and community development, there are certain student populations whose vocational and professional training needs cannot be met by these institutions; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a regional institute for industrial arts, combining the expertise and experience of educators and business leaders, might offer a curriculum specifically designed to provide the professional and vocational training necessary to produce a skilled workforce and to attract business and industry to the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That a Virginia Commission on the Future of Public Education be established to study the efficacy and appropriateness of establishing full-time regional vocational high schools and an institute of industrial arts in the Commonwealth. The Commission shall consider, among other things, the need for specific vocational, technical, and professional training and the types of curricula and degrees regional vocational schools and an institute of industrial arts should offer; the location, governance, and funding of such schools and institute; ways to facilitate partnerships between the public and private sectors in creating and operating such schools and institute; creative methods of incorporating the education and experience of craftsmen, business leaders, engineers, technicians, and others in the delivery of instruction; similar regional or special schools in other states; and such other issues as it deems appropriate.

The Commission shall consist of 33 members to be appointed as follows: five members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the Co-Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance;

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

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60 six members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker, the Chairmen of the House
61 Committees on Education, Appropriations, and Finance; the Lieutenant Governor; one division
62 superintendent and one representative of business and industry, to be appointed by the Senate Committee
63 on Privileges and Elections; eight citizens of whom three shall be recognized for their distinguished
64 leadership and contributions in the fields of public education and public service to the Commonwealth
65 or the nations, one shall be a public school teacher, one parent of a child enrolled in the public schools
66 of the Commonwealth, and one shall be a public school principal, all to be appointed by the Speaker of
67 the House; the Secretary of Education; the President of the Board of Education or his designee; and the
68 Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System and the
69 Director of the State Council of Higher Education shall serve ex-officio without voting privileges.

70 The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$34,500.

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

77 The Commission shall submit an interim report to the Governor and the 1997 General Assembly and
78 shall complete its work in time to submit its final report and recommendations to the Governor and the
79 1998 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative
80 Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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