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SENATE BILL NO. 985

Offered January 19, 1999

A BILL to provide for a binding referendum in Page County on the future of the county's two high schools.

Patrons—Miller, K.G.; Delegate: Guest

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

1. § 1. The officials conducting the November 2, 1999, election in Page County shall conduct a referendum on that date to poll the voters on the question of whether they are in favor of constructing a consolidated high school for the county and converting the two existing high schools to middle schools. The question on the ballot shall be: "Do you favor the construction of a consolidated high school for Page County and the conversion of the two existing high schools to middle schools?"

The ballots shall be prepared and voted, the referendum shall be conducted, and the results shall be ascertained and certified, all as provided in Article 5 (§ 24.2-681 et seq.) of Chapter 6 of Title 24.2 of the Code of Virginia.

The electoral board shall cause notice of the election to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least once in the period forty-five to sixty days before the election.

The results of the referendum shall be binding on the Page County board of supervisors and school board. If a majority of the voters vote "yes" and in favor of the construction and conversion, the boards shall proceed to provide for the construction of a consolidated high school for Page County and the conversion of the two existing high schools to middle schools. If a majority of the voters vote "no" and against the construction and conversion, the boards may proceed with other options for the future of the high schools in the county, including the construction of two new high schools and the conversion of the existing high schools into middle schools or the retention of the present system. The effect of a "no" vote by a majority of the voters shall be binding for ten years.

INTRODUCED

SB985