

REPORT OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
To  
THE GOVERNOR  
And  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND NATURAL HISTORY IN RICHMOND



5, D, 7-1966

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
*Department of Purchases and Supply*  
Richmond  
1965



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND  
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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

August 5, 1965

TO:

HONORABLE ALBERTIS S. HARRISON, JR., GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA  
and  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia in 1964, directed the Department of Conservation and Economic Development to make a study and to offer a plan for the encouragement or establishment of a Museum of Science, Archaeology and Natural History in Richmond.

Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, the Governor appointed an Advisory Committee of nine members to assist the Department with this study.

The Advisory Committee has completed its study and has submitted a report entitled "Report of State Science Museum Committee." The Report of the Advisory Committee has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Conservation and Economic Development and is submitted herewith as the report of the Department.

The Department is grateful for the able assistance rendered by the Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



M. M. Sutherland, Director

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

*To study the encouragement or establishment of a museum of science and natural*

Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 1964

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 5, 1964

Whereas, the State Museum of Minerals, Timber and History has for many years afforded pleasure and instruction on Virginia's natural resources, products and history to countless students and visitors to the Capitol Square; and

Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that knowledge and understanding of the use and conservation of Virginia's physical assets is a proper concern of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, the present museum is inadequate in terms of location, available space, range and quality of the collection and its display; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of Conservation and Economic Development is directed to make a study and to offer a plan for the encouragement or establishment of a properly located, designed, and operated museum of science, archaeology, and natural history in the Capital City. To assist the Department in making the study, the Governor shall appoint an advisory committee consisting of nine members to be appointed from the State at large.

The Department shall request the cooperation of the Virginia Institute of Scientific Research, the Virginia Academy of Science, and other interested groups. All agencies of the State shall assist the Department on its request. The Department shall conclude its study and make a report containing its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly not later than September one, nineteen hundred sixty-five.

**COMMITTEE TO STUDY A MUSEUM OF SCIENCE,  
ARCHAEOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY  
IN RICHMOND**

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## **REPORT OF STATE SCIENCE MUSEUM COMMITTEE**

The Committee to study a Museum of Science, Archaeology and Natural History in Richmond met on June 15 and on July 15, 1965. The following report represents the consensus of this Committee and makes several recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly of the Commonwealth.

The Committee unanimously endorses the formation of a State Science Museum. It recognizes that such a museum can do much good in the field of education, including adult education. It could add substantially to the number of scientists in the State and should therefore tend to attract industries oriented to the search for or use of natural resources. It would also be a tourist attraction.

The Committee feels that such a museum should carry out research and/or be closely associated with an agency which carries out research in the area of the museum's interests.

The Committee recognizes that the museum should serve all the people and areas of the State. Much of this work could be done through an active extension program, e.g., travelling exhibits, lending collections, speakers programs, use of television and other informational media, and regional exhibits. The idea of travelling exhibits was discussed with Mr. Franklin D. Kiser, Supervisor of Science, State Board of Education. He confirmed that such travelling exhibits would have an educational function in the secondary schools, particularly in the area of geology.

The Committee recognizes that the formation of such a Museum is expensive and will demand a continuing commitment by the Commonwealth.

The above considerations represent the base from which the following recommendations are made:

- (1) It is recommended that the 1966 General Assembly create a special study commission to make specific recommendations to the 1968 General Assembly concerning the details of administration and operation of a State Science Museum and the scope of its activities.
- (2) It is recommended that the membership of the Study Commission consist largely of representatives of professional and scientific disciplines expected to be in the areas of the Science Museum's activities.
- (3) It is recommended that the Commission have an appropriation of \$50,000 to employ the necessary consultants for the preparation of estimates of the cost of operation on a modest scale and for phased increases in the activities of the Museum.

