

**INTERIM REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS OF THE
EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES OF THE
CITY OF RICHMOND**

**To
THE GOVERNOR
And
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 2

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Purchases and Supply
Richmond
1969

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Richmond, Virginia, March 10, 1969

TO: HONORABLE MILLS E. GODWIN, JR., *Governor of Virginia*

and

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

The capital city of a state is always a symbol to the citizens of a state, as it is identified with the government of a state. Functionally, this city provides housing, although only temporarily during the term of office, to the Governor, the legislature, the judiciary, many State officers and thousands of State employees. The capital city is the center of most State actions and as a result is the source of thousands of lines of newspaper print each month. Richmond, the capital city of Virginia, is no exception. Steeped in the memory of many momentous historical events, it has for almost 190 years been looked upon as the hub of Virginia. Thousands of citizens of other states and nations annually visit Richmond, among other things, to view the Capitol designed from plans drawn by Thomas Jefferson in collaboration with Charles Louis Clerisseau, a French architect, in which stands the priceless Houdon statue of George Washington. History surrounds Virginia's Capitol and many Statesmen and officials from the nation and the world stop and admire the Capitol's beauty going to and from conferences with the Governor and other State officers. In coming to the Capitol, thousands of persons avail themselves of other facilities of the city and view other shrines, museums and exhibits many of which are financed in part by State funds. Thus, the welfare of Richmond is of great concern to all people of the State, to the government of the State and to the 140 members of the General Assembly. It is not surprising then that the 1968 General Assembly in Senate Joint Resolution No. 71 created a commission to study the problem of the expansion of the boundaries of the city of Richmond. This resolution is as follows:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71

Creating a Commission to study the problem of the expansion of the boundaries of the city of Richmond.

Whereas, serious questions have arisen concerning the expansion of the boundaries of the city of Richmond; and

Whereas, the future of the capital city should be of vital interest to every citizen of this Commonwealth, and a study should be made of the problem; now, therefore,

Resolved by the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates concurring, That a Commission is hereby created to study the problem of expanding the boundaries of the city of Richmond. The Commission shall be composed of seven members, to be appointed as follows: two by the President of the Senate from the membership of the Senate, three by the Speaker of the House of Delegates from the membership of the House and two by the Governor from the State at large, who shall be chosen on the basis of their objectivity and impartiality. The Commission shall select its chairman from its membership. The Commission shall thoroughly study all aspects of the problem, and make its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly prior to March one, nineteen hundred sixty-nine. The Commission is authorized to accept private or public grants to finance its study, from which it is authorized to pay the necessary expenses of the study, including the expenses of the members of the Commission in carrying out their duties.

All agencies of the State shall assist the Commission in its study upon request of the Commission.

Pursuant to this resolution, the President of the Senate appointed as members of this Commission the following members of the Senate: George S. Aldhizer, II, Broadway, and William F. Stone, Martinsville; the Speaker of the House of Delegates appointed the following members of the House: Donald G. Pendleton, Amherst, Edgar Bacon, Jonesville, and C. Hardaway Marks, Hopewell; and the Governor appointed Messrs. E. Almer Ames, Jr., Onancock and Richard Newman, Newport News.

The Commission held its first meeting on June 17, 1968 and elected Senator Aldhizer, II, Chairman and Mr. Pendleton, Vice-Chairman. The Division of Statutory Research and Drafting is serving as secretariat to this Commission.

It might be pointed out that at the time this Commission organized, an annexation suit had been filed by the city of Richmond against Chesterfield County pursuant to the provisions of Title 15.1 of the Code of Virginia. Since this was a judicial matter, this legislative Commission believed it might be a presumptive interference with judicial process to begin hearings and have access to exhibits and other information which might be used as evidence in this pending suit. As a result, it was not until this case ended in a mistrial that this Commission held any meetings in which it attempted to gain any knowledge or information concerning the boundary expansion problems of the city of Richmond.

Since January 1969, the Commission has held several meetings. Because no State funds were appropriated to this Commission, no experts could be employed to assist the Commission in its study. In addition, the Commission was reluctant to accept gifts or grants from any source which might have a prejudicial interest in this study. As a result, the information gathered to date is that voluntarily given by the city of Richmond and the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield. Obviously, and admittedly, this data is in no sense complete and has not been expertly or intensely studied. However, mindful of the March 1, 1969, date given to this Commission for its report to the Governor and General Assembly in the Senate Joint

Resolution creating it, and being convinced certain steps must be recommended to the 1969 Special Session of the General Assembly, this Commission files this interim report and makes the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The General Assembly of Virginia should have the authority to designate and determine from time to time the boundaries of the capital city of the State and this authority should be given it in the Constitution.
2. This Commission urges in the very strongest of language that the city of Richmond and the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield agree to an expanded boundary for the city of Richmond and take the necessary steps to add this territory to the city limits of Richmond prior to the 1970 regular session of the General Assembly. In case such an extension of the boundaries of the city of Richmond cannot be amicably agreed upon, this Commission will continue its study and report a suggested solution and legislation to effect such a solution to the Governor and General Assembly before the 1970 regular session.

An Amendment to the proposed Constitution of Virginia is attached to effect Recommendation No. 1.

A written proposal and suggested bill to consolidate the city of Richmond and Henrico and Chesterfield counties was recently submitted to this Commission by one of its members, Mr. Newman. The Commission has not acted upon this recommendation but will continue to consider it as a possible recommendation in its report to the 1970 General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

George S. Aldhizer, II, Chairman
Donald G. Pendleton, Vice-Chairman
E. Almer Ames, Jr.
Edgar Bacon
C. Hardaway Marks
Richard Newman
William F. Stone

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AMENDMENT TO

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

1. In Article VII, Local Government, Section 2, page 2, line 22, after

; except that the Capitol of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be located within the city of Richmond or within any other city the General Assembly may designate. The boundaries of the city

in which the Capitol is located may be enlarged from time to time in any manner the General Assembly shall prescribe and any territory taken from any adjacent county or counties or city or cities or any combination thereof to enlarge the boundaries of the city in which the Capitol of the Commonwealth of Virginia is located shall be paid for by this city according to the formula adopted by the General Assembly

