

**CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL DIVISIONS**

**REPORT OF THE  
VIRGINIA SCHOOL DIVISIONS  
CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMISSION  
To**

**THE GOVERNOR**

**And**

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**

**HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 6**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
Department of Purchases and Supply  
Richmond  
1969



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# CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL DIVISIONS

## REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA SCHOOL DIVISIONS CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMISSION

TO

THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Richmond, Virginia  
October 1, 1969

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

and

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

This Commission was created in 1968 by House Joint Resolution No. 81, for the purpose of studying the ways and means of effecting the consolidation of small and inefficient school divisions. The Resolution states:

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 81

*Creating a Commission to investigate ways and means to effect the consolidation of small school divisions.*

Whereas, there exists a wide disparity among school districts in the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, there is a significant relationship between the quality of the educational program and the size of individual schools and school systems; and

Whereas, small school divisions cannot economically provide the necessary educational services to all students in their divisions; and

Whereas, the consolidation of small and inefficient school divisions into larger, more efficient divisions appears to be desirable; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates of Virginia, the Senate concurring, That a Commission, to be known as the Virginia School Divisions Consolidation Study Commission, is hereby created to make a study and report upon ways and means to effect the consolidation of small school divisions so that necessary educational services may be provided to students throughout the Commonwealth.

The Commission shall be composed of eleven members, three of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate from the membership thereof; three of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates from the membership thereof; and five of whom shall be appointed by the Governor from the State at large. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be paid their necessary expenses,

for which and for such secretarial and other assistance as the Commission may require, there is hereby appropriated from the contingent fund of the General Assembly a sum sufficient, not to exceed two thousand dollars.

The Commission shall conclude its study and make its report to the Governor and the General Assembly not later than October one, nineteen hundred sixty-nine. All agencies of the State shall assist the Commission in its study when requested.

The Commission's organizational meeting was held Wednesday, June 12, 1968. At this time a subcommittee was appointed to study the Constitutional provisions and laws relating to school consolidation. A second subcommittee was appointed to study the existing school divisions in the Commonwealth with the object of determining what might be the ideal division of the State into school divisions. Meetings of these subcommittees and conferences with the State Department of Education took place in November of 1968 and early 1969.

At the November meeting of the subcommittee studying the Constitutional provisions and laws governing consolidation, the subcommittee was unanimous in deciding that it would be expedient to halt their study until the work of the Commission on Constitutional Revision was completed and passed upon by the 1969 Special Session of the General Assembly. A conference was arranged with the counsel, Thomas S. Currier, of the Subcommittee on Education of the Commission on Constitutional Revision, who discussed the progress of his Subcommittee in suggesting revision of the Education Article of the Constitution. Following this meeting, the Commission felt that any recommendations made under the existing Constitution and laws would probably not be appropriate if the Education Article of the Constitution was changed along the lines discussed by Mr. Currier.

Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 23 through 29, proposing amendments to the Constitution of Virginia, were passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate on April 25, 1969.

In Article VIII, entitled Education, of the proposed Constitution, emphasis is placed upon standards of quality to be determined from time to time by the State Board of Education, subject to revision by the General Assembly. Section 5 of this Article prescribes new powers and duties to the State Board of Education subject to such criteria and conditions as the General Assembly may prescribe.

Thus the Commission must conclude that, should the proposed Constitution be adopted, the State Board of Education will divide the Commonwealth into school divisions, in accordance with criteria and conditions prescribed by the General Assembly.

Therefore, it is the conclusion and recommendation of this Commission—

- A. That no valid recommendations can be made by the Commission until the adoption or rejection of the proposed Constitution by the referendum to be held following the meeting of the General Assembly in 1970.
- B. That the Commission be held in being and to report on this important subject as soon as feasible following the referendum in 1970.

C. That this report be accepted as an Interim Report on the work of the Commission.

We submit the following resolution for adoption by the 1970 General Assembly:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. --

*Continuing the Commission to investigate ways and means to effect the consolidation of small school divisions.*

Whereas, the Virginia School Divisions Consolidation Study Commission, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 81 of the 1968 Acts of Assembly, has investigated the problems of small and inefficient school divisions; and

Whereas, the Commission has concluded that the amendments to the Constitution proposed by the General Assembly at its 1969 Special Session will substantially affect the conclusions of the Commission; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia School Divisions Consolidation Study Commission is directed to continue its study of the ways and means to effect the consolidation of small school divisions so that necessary educational services may be provided to students throughout the Commonwealth.

The Commission shall be composed of the eleven members appointed under House Joint Resolution No. 81 of the 1968 Acts of Assembly. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be paid their necessary expenses, for which and for such secretarial and other assistance as the Commission may require, there is hereby appropriated from the contingent fund of the General Assembly a sum sufficient, not to exceed five thousand dollars.

The Commission shall conclude its study and make its report to the Governor and the General Assembly as soon as feasible after the referendum on the amendment of the Constitution proposed by the 1969 Special Session of the General Assembly, but not later than November 1, 1971.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Turner, Chairman

George W. Holmes, III, Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Marion G. Galland

John Galleher

Charles S. Hooper, Jr.

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