

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 231 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY MAHONEY, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, CUTLER, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GROVE, W. KELLER, KIRKLAND, MANN, MATZIE, MILLARD, MOUL, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, READSHAW, SCAVELLO, K. SMITH, STURLA AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 25, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 25, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging school districts in this Commonwealth to study the  
2 fiscal impact of consolidating the administrations of school  
3 districts within their county.

4 WHEREAS, The current fiscal condition facing State government  
5 has raised the issue of school consolidation; and

6 WHEREAS, The result of having 500 school districts in this  
7 Commonwealth has caused a lack of coordination and focus on  
8 major functions, wasteful administrative spending and a lack of  
9 accountability to the public; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, the State legislature mandated public  
11 school consolidation for smaller districts, reducing the number  
12 of school districts to 505 by the end of the 1970s. Currently,  
13 school consolidations are voluntary; and

14 WHEREAS, School consolidation can lead to significant cost  
15 savings in addition to increased educational opportunities; and

16 WHEREAS, Section 224 of the Public School Code of 1949 sets  
17 forth the current law regarding school mergers. The section

1 provides that any two or more school districts or administrative  
2 units may combine to create a larger school district; and

3 WHEREAS, The board of school directors of each school  
4 district desiring to form a school merger shall, by a majority  
5 vote, adopt a resolution outlining the areas to be combined and  
6 file an application for approval with the Secretary of  
7 Education. The State Board of Education shall review each  
8 application upon its agenda and approve the application as it  
9 deems wise in the best interest of the educational system of the  
10 Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, A consolidation study will be completed in Spring  
12 2011 to examine possible cost savings through the consolidation  
13 of Fayette County school districts; and

14 WHEREAS, The results of this study will be used in gathering  
15 petition signatures to ultimately have a referendum for Fayette  
16 County voters to decide whether a school merger should occur;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Consolidating school administrations is a very  
19 effective way to save tax payers' money across Pennsylvania; and

20 WHEREAS, School districts would still keep different  
21 identities; however, there is no need to maintain separate  
22 administrations, each with its own staggering and growing  
23 administrative costs. Reducing the number of administrations  
24 could improve the effectiveness and efficiency among agencies  
25 and departments; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That school districts within a county be encouraged  
27 to study the fiscal benefits of consolidating school district  
28 administrations; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be given to every  
30 school district in this Commonwealth.