

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 910 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY VEREB, SAYLOR, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DIAMOND, GERGELY, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, JOZWIAK, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MILLARD, MULLERY, NEILSON, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, SCHLOSSBERG, ZIMMERMAN, MENTZER, D. PARKER AND MATZIE, JUNE 1, 2016

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 14, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 Statewide study on reducing the number of school districts in
3 this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 500 school districts that
5 operate as discrete entities; and

6 WHEREAS, Each school district operates under an independent
7 governance structure, develops an annual budget, maintains a
8 professional and support staff and provides for the procurement
9 of goods and services to meet the needs of the district; and

10 WHEREAS, The considerable number of school districts may
11 result in significant financial inefficiencies and duplication
12 of services; and

13 WHEREAS, The consolidation of school districts or school
14 district services may help to reduce administrative overhead,
15 address declining populations and create financial efficiencies
16 to help ease the burden on local property taxpayers; and

17 WHEREAS, A reduction in the number of school districts may

1 also increase academic achievement and enrichment opportunities
2 for students through access to better resources; and

3 WHEREAS, A study on the cost savings that can be realized
4 through consolidation of school districts or school district
5 services may help to guide the General Assembly in making
6 decisions regarding school district consolidation in the future;
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
9 State Government Commission, with assistance from the
10 Independent Fiscal Office, to conduct a Statewide study on
11 reducing the number of school districts in this Commonwealth;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, in
14 conducting the study, shall do all of the following:

15 (1) Evaluate the cost savings that may materialize as a
16 result of Statewide school district consolidation, ~~including~~ <--
17 AND the consolidation of administrative, purchasing and other <--
18 functions.

19 (2) Analyze the potential impact of Statewide school
20 district consolidation on student transportation, State
21 funding received by school districts and other logistical
22 issues.

23 (3) Consider the feasibility of multiple school district
24 consolidation options, including consolidation at the county,
25 intermediate unit or other ~~level~~, LEVEL. <--

26 (4) EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A MANNER
27 IN WHICH TO ADDRESS SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT AND MILLAGE AS A
28 RESULT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION.

29 (5) EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE
30 INCENTIVES FOR CONSOLIDATIONS.

1 (6) EVALUATE NOT ONLY THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF SCHOOL
2 CONSOLIDATION BUT THE IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE ON ACADEMIC
3 ACHIEVEMENT;

4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
6 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives
7 no later than one year after the adoption of this resolution.