

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 67

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations

4 on February 5, 2024)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Simonds)

6 Establishing a joint committee of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on
7 Education, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on
8 Education and Health to study fair school funding reform. Report.

9 WHEREAS, Virginia, unlike many other states, has not made systemic changes to improve its
10 public school funding formula and fully fund its system of public elementary and secondary education to
11 fully meet student needs as required pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of Article VIII of the Constitution of
12 Virginia; and

13 WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission performed a crucial first step in
14 the direction of fair school funding reform by conducting a two-year study and publishing its findings and
15 recommendations in its July 2023 report, "Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula"; and

16 WHEREAS, it is now imperative to take the next step by considering and taking action on such
17 recommendations and making such other changes as the General Assembly deems necessary and
18 appropriate to establish a fair and equitable system of public school funding; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a joint committee of the
20 House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on
21 Finance and Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health be established to study
22 fair school funding reform. The joint committee shall have a total membership of thirteen members,
23 consisting of five members of the House Committee on Appropriations, to be appointed by the Chairman
24 of the House Committee on Appropriations, two members of the House Committee on Education to be
25 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the
26 House Committee on Education, five members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations,

27 to be appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and one member
28 of the Senate Committee on Education and Health to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
29 upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health. The joint
30 committee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership.

31 In conducting its study, the joint committee shall:

32 1. Create a public engagement plan for receiving input and feedback from community
33 stakeholders, including the Secretary of Education, parents, teachers, students, school division finance
34 officers, other school staff, and association leaders who represent teachers, parents, division
35 superintendents, school principals, urban school divisions, rural school divisions, mid-sized school
36 divisions, students with disabilities, English language learner students, the business community, and
37 tertiary schools of education;

38 2. Utilize the recommendations from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in its
39 July 2023 report, "Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula," and any stakeholder input and feedback received
40 pursuant to subdivision 1 to develop a long-range plan for the phased implementation of recommendations
41 in such report. In its deliberations, the joint committee shall consider the long-term fiscal feasibility of
42 each recommendation; and

43 3. Submit the recommendations produced pursuant to subdivision 2 to the Governor and the
44 Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and
45 Appropriations by November 1, 2024.

46 Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates.
47 Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the joint committee shall be provided
48 by the Division of Legislative Services and the staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and the
49 Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations. Technical assistance shall be provided by the
50 Department of Education. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the joint
51 committee for this study, upon request.

52 The joint committee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2024 interim. Approval for
53 unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the

