



SPONSOR: Rep. Jaques & Rep. Bolden & Rep. Miro & Sen. Sokola

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION.

1 WHEREAS, there are currently nineteen (19) school districts operating in the state of Delaware; and

2 WHEREAS, school districts range in size from 15,929 students in Red Clay Consolidated School District to 1,200
3 students in POLYTECH School District; and

4 WHEREAS, school districts differ in regard to enrollment size, physical area covered, taxing authority, education
5 provided, and proportion of state funding; and

6 WHEREAS, school districts required a chief school officer, or superintendent, and a school board; and

7 WHEREAS, as the state of Delaware's financial obligations related to education continue to rise, many states and
8 school districts are exploring consolidation as a strategy for decreasing administrative and other related education costs; and

9 WHEREAS, school district consolidation may also produce cost advantages through the provision of shared
10 services (e.g. – transportation, information technology, security, and food preparation) and greater economies-of-scale in
11 the purchase of material.

12 NOW, THEREFORE:

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
14 Senate concurring therein, that a Task Force be created to study and make findings and recommendations regarding the
15 impact of consolidating school districts in the state of Delaware.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Task Force be composed of sixteen (16) members consisting of the
17 following:

18 (1) The Education Policy Advisor for the Governor;

19 (2) The Secretary of Education or designee;

20 (3) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, one from each
21 caucus;

22 (4) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore, one from each caucus;

23 (5) Three (3) Superintendents, appointed by the President of the Chief School Officers Association, one from
24 each county;

25 (6) The Director of OMB, or designee;

26 (7) A representative appointed by the President of the Delaware State Education Association;

27 (8) The Executive Director of the School Boards Association, or designee;

28 (9) A representative of the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens;

29 (10) A representative from the Charter School Network;

30 (11) One (1) parent or guardian of a public school student, appointed by the Delaware Parent Teacher
31 Association; and

32 (12) One (1) representative of a Vo-Tech school district.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Task Force shall:

34 (a) Examine issues and existing research related to the consolidation of school districts;

35 (b) Study and make findings related to the financial feasibility and impact of school district consolidation;

36 (c) Study implementation challenges associated with school district consolidation;

37 (d) Examine and identify incentives that may be used to encourage schools districts to consolidate or
38 reorganize; and

39 (e) Make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly concerning a proposed direction for public
40 education consolidation based upon its findings.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the support staff for the Task Force shall be provided by the Delaware
42 Department of Education.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall select a chairperson from among its members;

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the members
45 of the Delaware General Assembly no later than January 30, 2018.

SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution establishes a Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the impact of consolidating school districts in the state of Delaware.