



## **RESOLUTION ON HOUSE BILL 1377**

IN RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1377, WHICH WOULD CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A STATE-SPONSORED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1377 has been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly Session, which in sum creates a task force to determine whether the Virginia Military Institute should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Military Institute (hereinafter VMI) was founded in 1839 as America's first state-sponsored and supported military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the United States.

**WHEREAS**, the concept and design of VMI and its founding principles were developed and adopted by the citizens of Rockbridge County in 1839 lead by Rockbridge Resident J.T.L Preston and later became the standard of the citizen-soldier throughout the United States,

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with its founding principles and unlike any other Senior Military College in the United States, VMI enrolls cadets only, awards bachelor's degrees exclusively, and grants degrees in disciplines in engineering, science, and the liberal arts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Military Institute has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of existence, many of whom have served the United States of America in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Marine Corps, including over 285 graduates who have obtained the rank of general or flag officer; and

**WHEREAS**, VMI is the only Virginia Institution of Higher education with a State Cadet program that graduates citizen-soldiers to work directly for the Commonwealth and benefit all citizens, and has produced leaders in the military, medicine, law, education, engineering, and business; and

**WHEREAS**, VMI and the VMI Family are treasured and essential parts of the regions society and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, VMI has more than proven itself worthy of the Commonwealth of Virginia's investment of public funds in producing citizen-soldiers who have served the Commonwealth and the Republic of the United States of America for over 186 years; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Augusta County, Virginia Board of Supervisors that it states and confirms its strong opposition to the House Bill 1377 which proposes to create a task force to determine if VMI should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and accordingly urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation.

This Resolution was adopted by the Augusta County Board of Supervisors on this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

Recorded Vote:

Moved: Bragg

Seconded: Seaton

Yays: 7

Nays: 0

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



County Administrator



## **RESOLUTION ON HOUSE BILL 1374**

IN RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1374, WHICH WOULD AMEND TITLE 23.1 OF THE VIRGINIA CODE TO EFFECTUATE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE AND PLACE THE GOVERNANCE OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE UNDER THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1374 has been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly Session which in sum dissolves the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute and places the Institute under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Military Institute (hereinafter VMI) was founded in 1839 as America's first state-sponsored and -supported military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1839, Rockbridge County citizens, led by resident J. T. L. Preston, developed the foundational design and principles of VMI they later gained Commonwealth approval to implement, establishing the citizen-soldier model later adopted nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with its founding principles and unlike any other Senior Military College in the United States, VMI enrolls cadets only, awards bachelor's degrees exclusively, and grants degrees in disciplines in engineering, science, and the liberal arts; and

**WHEREAS**, VMI has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of existence, many of whom have served the United States of America, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Marine Corps, including over 285 graduates who have obtained the rank of general or flag officer; and

**WHEREAS**, VMI is the only Virginia Institution of Higher education with a State Cadet program that graduates citizen-soldiers to work directly for the Commonwealth and benefit all citizens and has produced leaders in the military, education, medicine, law, and engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, VMI, as a treasured part of the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia, has more than earned the right to govern itself under its own Board of Visitors as it has done for over 186 years; and

**WHEREAS**, VMI and the VMI Family are essential parts of the regions society and economy whose future and governance should not be conducted from afar by those who have no stake in the County, its residents, or businesses; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Augusta County, Virginia Board of Supervisors hereby expresses and affirms its strong opposition to House Bill 1374, which amends Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia to dissolve the VMI Board of Visitors and place VMI under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University or any other outside board, and urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation.

This Resolution was adopted by the Augusta County Board of Supervisors on this 11th day of February 2026.

Recorded Vote:

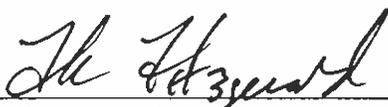
Moved: Seaton

Seconded: Bragg

Yays: 7

Nays: 0

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



County Administrator