

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILLS 1374 and 1377 REGARDING THE GOVERNANCE OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

WHEREAS, House Bill 1374 has been introduced during the 2026 Session of the Virginia General Assembly and proposes to amend Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia by repealing the statutory provisions establishing the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute and transferring governance and oversight of the Institute to the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1377 has been introduced during the 2026 Session of the Virginia General Assembly and proposes to establish a Virginia Military Institute Task Force charged with evaluating the Institute's mission, governance, costs, academic programs, student welfare, and institutional practices, and with reporting to the Governor and the General Assembly on whether the Virginia Military Institute should continue to operate as a state-sponsored institution of higher education; and

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

WHEREAS, citizens of Rockbridge County played a central role in the establishment of the Virginia Military Institute and its foundational citizen-soldier model; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute occupies a unique role among senior military colleges, enrolling only cadets and awarding bachelor's degrees in engineering, science, and the liberal arts; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute has educated thousands of graduates who have served the Commonwealth and the United States in military, civic, and professional leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the Virginia Military Institute constitutes a significant historical, cultural, and economic component of Rockbridge County; and

WHEREAS, the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors recognizes that the governance of state institutions is vested in the General Assembly, but seeks to convey the perspective of the County and its residents regarding legislation that materially affects the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its opposition to House Bill 1374, which would restructure the governance of the Virginia Military Institute, and House Bill 1377, which would initiate a formal review of whether the Institute should continue as a state-sponsored institution of higher education, and respectfully urges the members of the Virginia General Assembly to consider the historical significance, institutional uniqueness, and local impacts associated with each of these proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the members of the Rockbridge County legislative delegation and other appropriate state officials.

Adopted this 9th day of February 2026.

Recorded Vote:

AYES: Hart, Day, Ayers, Lewis, McDaniel
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 
David B. McDaniel Chairman

Attest: 
Spencer H. Suter, Clerk