

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD AT THE ROANOKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

**RESOLUTION 021026-3 IN OPPOSITION TO**

- 1) HOUSE BILL 1374, WHICH WOULD AMEND TITLE 23.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA TO EFFECTUATE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE AND PLACE GOVERNANCE OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE UNDER THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND**
- 2) HOUSE BILL 1377, WHICH WOULD CREATE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE AND ASSESS WHETHER OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS COULD REPLACE THE ROLE OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE**

WHEREAS, House Bill 1374 has been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly Session; the bill proposes to dissolve the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute ("VMI") and place the VMI under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1377 has also been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly; the bill proposes to create a task force to determine whether VMI should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, 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, Lexington and Rockbridge County citizens developed the foundational design and principles of VMI, which they later gained Commonwealth approval to implement, establishing the citizen-soldier model; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County

1. Hereby expresses its opposition to 1) House Bill 1374, which proposes to amend 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, and 2) House Bill 1377, which would create a task force to examine higher education at the VMI and to assess whether other public

institutions could replace the role of VMI, and urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation, and

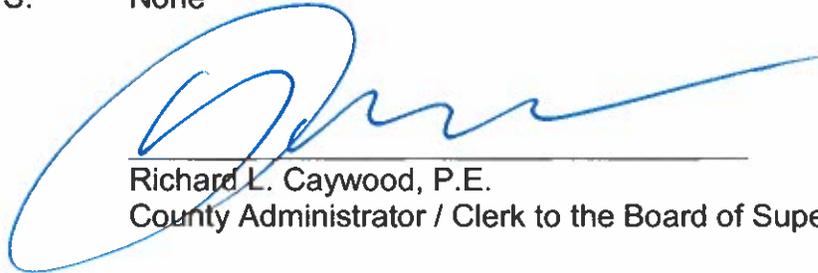
2. Urges the General Assembly not to enact these proposed bills.

The Clerk shall provide copies of this resolution to each member of the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate that represents the County of Roanoke.

On motion of Supervisor Hooker to adopt the resolution; seconded by Supervisor Shepherd and carried by the following roll call and recorded vote:

AYES: Supervisors Radford, Hooker, North, Mahoney, Shepherd  
NAYS: None

A COPY TESTE:



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Richard L. Caywood, P.E.  
County Administrator / Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

CC: Peter S. Lubeck, County Attorney