

Russell County Virginia

“The Heart of Southwest Virginia”

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District 1

Steve Breeding
District 5

Lou Ann Wallace
District 2

David Eaton, Chairman
District 4

Nathan Kiser
At-Large

Tara Dye
District 3
Administrator

Rebecca Dye, Vice-Chairman
District 6

Lonzo Lester
County

RESOLUTION ON HOUSE BILL 1377

RESOLUTION

IN RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1377, WHICH WOULD CREATE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE INSTITUTE

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 Lexington Virginia in Rockbridge County in 1839 lead by an esteemed Lexington, Virginia, resident and a native son of Virginia, 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 Russell County's and Virginia's 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 Russell 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 investigate and "examine" VMI as well as retains a requirement that the task force assess whether other public institutions could "replace the role of VMI", and if VMI should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia so as to preserve a direct analytic pathway to defunding the Institute and accordingly urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

This Resolution was adopted by the Russell County Board of Supervisors on this, the 9th day of February 2026.

Recorded Vote

Moved By: Steve Breeding

Seconded By: Andrew Hensley

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: Nathan Kiser

Copy Teste.



David Eaton, Chairman

