

Recommendations

Local Government and School Division Consolidation

1. The General Assembly may wish to consider setting forth in the Code of Virginia the state's goal to provide special funding to facilitate amicable consolidations that improve local fiscal sustainability, and when possible realize state or local savings and local service improvements (Chapter 4, page 19).
2. The General Assembly may wish to consider providing grants through the Appropriation Act to localities to assess whether consolidation is feasible, and the likelihood of improving fiscal sustainability and local services, and achieving state or local savings (Chapter 4, page 19).
3. The General Assembly may wish to amend § 22.1-25 of the Code of Virginia and item 139, A.4.c.1 of the Appropriation Act to remove references to additional state funding for future consolidations based on the local composite index (Chapter 4, page 21).
4. The Commission on Local Government should develop a new process to determine the amount of additional state funds for local consolidation. The amount of additional funding for local consolidation should be based primarily on the projected cost of consolidation. The length of time additional funding is provided should be based primarily on the complexity and length of time necessary for the consolidation. The process should be developed in coordination with the Department of Education and state Board of Education (Chapter 4, page 22).
5. The General Assembly may wish to amend the Code of Virginia to direct the Commission on Local Government to prepare and submit proposals through the governor's budget for additional state funding for localities that wish to consolidate. The amount of additional funding requested should be based primarily on the projected cost of the specific consolidation being proposed. (Chapter 4, page 23).