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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 410 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MAHONEY, MILLARD, ROZZI, R. BROWN, KIRKLAND,  
GIBBONS, D. PARKER, COHEN AND COX, JUNE 25, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 25, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to direct the Department of Education to  
2 conduct a study on the cost savings of consolidating school  
3 districts in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 500 school districts that  
5 provide quality education to students to prepare them for  
6 success in today's society and global economy; and

7 WHEREAS, School districts operate under separate  
8 administrations which can lead to inefficiency and lack of  
9 coordination, duplication of services, wasteful spending and  
10 limited accountability to the public; and

11 WHEREAS, School districts have experienced significant  
12 reductions in funding from the State and local level over the  
13 previous fiscal years which has led many districts to consider  
14 eliminating programs and furloughing teachers to address budget  
15 shortfalls; and

16 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, the General Assembly mandated that  
17 smaller school districts consolidate, which significantly  
18 reduced the number of school districts over the subsequent

1 years, but consolidation currently remains voluntary; and

2 WHEREAS, The consolidation of school districts and  
3 streamlining of administrative functions can result in  
4 significant cost savings and improved efficiency in maintaining  
5 such a large education system; and

6 WHEREAS, Consolidating school districts can lead to increased  
7 educational opportunities for all students and provide financial  
8 relief for schools that are struggling to serve their students'  
9 needs; and

10 WHEREAS, A study on the cost savings and other financial  
11 outcomes of consolidating school districts is important to guide  
12 future decision making regarding the number of school districts  
13 in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives respectfully urge  
15 the Governor to direct the Department of Education to conduct a  
16 study on the cost savings of consolidating school districts in  
17 this Commonwealth; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study include multiple school  
19 consolidation options, including county consolidation; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor  
22 to direct the Department of Education to report its findings to  
23 the House of Representatives no later than one year from the  
24 date of passage of this resolution; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
26 the Governor and to the Department of Education.