

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 11

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 1996

By Assemblymen COLLINS, ROBERTS, Assemblywoman Gill,
Assemblyman Garcia, Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblymen
Felice, Gregg and DeCroce

- 1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION establishing the Assembly Task Force on
2 Education Funding.
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- 4 WHEREAS, Since 1970, the State of New Jersey has been involved in a series
5 of legal challenges to its system of funding public elementary and secondary
6 education; and
- 7 WHEREAS, These challenges have been based in large part upon the assertion
8 that New Jersey's system of funding public education has not met the
9 constitutional requirement to provide all students with a thorough and
10 efficient education; and
- 11 WHEREAS, In its Abbott v. Burke school funding decisions, the New Jersey
12 Supreme Court found both the "Public School Education Act of 1975,"
13 P.L.1975, c.212, and the "Quality Education Act of 1990," P.L.1990,
14 c.52, unconstitutional as applied to the poorest urban school districts in the
15 State because of their failure to provide an adequate level of educational
16 opportunity to students within those districts; and
- 17 WHEREAS, In its July, 1994 Abbott v. Burke decision, the Supreme Court
18 specifically required that the Legislature and the Governor adopt by
19 September, 1996, for implementation in the 1997-98 school year, a
20 funding formula which ensures the provision of a "thorough and efficient"
21 education for students in the special needs districts; and
- 22 WHEREAS, It is of critical importance that the uncertainty which has
23 surrounded the funding of public education within the State during the past
24 several years be alleviated for all school districts to enable them to engage
25 in the educational planning which is necessary to provide the programs and
26 services essential to a "thorough and efficient" education; and
- 27 WHEREAS, In order to meet the mandate of the Supreme Court in regard to
28 educational funding it is essential that the members of the Legislature study
29 the complex issues associated with public school funding and reach a
30 consensus on the most appropriate manner to comply with the directives
31 of the court; now, therefore,
32 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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2 1. There is established the Assembly Task Force on Education Funding
3 to examine the issue of school finance and the directives of the New Jersey
4 Supreme Court in regard to the funding of the public schools and to make
5 recommendations on the provisions of a new school funding formula. The task
6 force shall consist of eight members of the General Assembly to be appointed
7 by the Speaker thereof. No more than five members shall be of the same
8 political party.

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10 2. a. The task force shall organize as soon as possible after the
11 appointment of its members. The speaker shall appoint a chairman and a vice-
12 chairman from among its members. The chairman may appoint a secretary
13 who need not be a member of the task force.

14 b. The task force may meet at the call of its chair at the times and in the
15 places it may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its charge.

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17 3. a. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself
18 of the services of employees of any State, county, or municipal department,
19 board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require and as may be
20 available to it for its purposes.

21 b. The task force shall further be entitled to employ stenographic and
22 clerical assistance and incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it
23 may deem necessary in order to perform its duties, within the limits of funds
24 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

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26 4. The task force shall issue a report to the Speaker and the General
27 Assembly, along with any recommendations it may have for legislative bills, by
28 July 30, 1996.

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STATEMENT

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33 This resolution establishes the Assembly Task Force on Education
34 Funding. The task force is to consist of eight members of the General
35 Assembly to be appointed by the Speaker. The task force is charged with
36 examining the issues associated with school finance and the directives of the
37 New Jersey Supreme Court in regard to the funding of the public schools.
38 The task force is to issue a report to the Speaker and the General Assembly,
39 along with any recommendations it may have for legislative bills, by July 30,
40 1996.

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3 Establishes the Assembly Task Force on Education Funding.