



Amherst County Board of Supervisors  
County Resolution No. 2026-1-R

For consideration on February 3, 2026

**A RESOLUTION, NO. 2026-1-R**

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1377 WHICH WOULD CREATE  
A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE SHOULD  
CONTINUE TO BE A STATE-SPONSORED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Approved as to form by the County Attorney

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF  
AMHERST, VIRGINIA:**

**I. That the Amherst County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) is in opposition to proposed House Bill 1377.**

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, the concept and design of VMI and its founding principles were developed and adopted by the citizens of Rockbridge County in 1839 lead by Rockbridge Resident J.T.L Preston and later became the standard of the citizen-soldier throughout the United States; 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**, the Virginia Military Institute has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of existence many of which 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 Rockbridge County'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.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Amherst County Board of Supervisors that it states and confirms its strong opposition to House Bill 1377 which proposes to create a task force to determine if VMI should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and accordingly urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

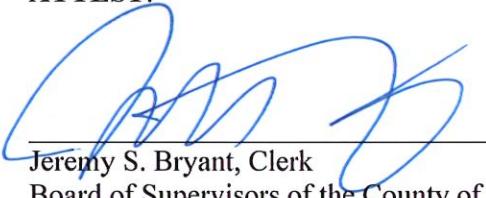
**II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.**

Adopted this February 3, 2026.



Tom Martin, Chair  
Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia

**ATTEST:**



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Jeremy S. Bryant, Clerk  
Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia

Ayes 4

Nays 0

Abstentions 0