SPONSOR: Rep. Potter & Rep. Lynn & Sen. Henry
Reps. Baumbach, Bentz, Bolden, Brady, Jaques, J. Johnson, Keeley, Mitchell, Mulrooney, Osienski, Paradee, Viola; Sens. Marshall, McDowell, Poore, Townsend

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
148th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

SUPPORTING THE REDISTRICTING RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WILMINGTON EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION AND APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 122, passed in the first half of the 148th General Assembly, made amendments to Section 1026 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, and authorized the State Board of Education to change or alter the boundaries of school districts in New Castle County in a manner consistent with some or all of the redistricting recommendations made by the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee in the report issued March 31, 2015, provided that the General Assembly passes, and the Governor signs, a Joint Resolution supporting the proposed changes; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (the "Commission") was created and empowered by House Bill No. 148, as amended, to plan, recommend, and implement improvements to the quality and availability of public education in the City of Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Section 1026(d)(2) of Title 14, the Commission held 6 public hearings, including at least one public hearing in each of the affected school districts and at least two in the City of Wilmington.

WHEREAS, the Commission presented to the Board of Education a plan for redistricting dated December 15, 2015, and revised on March 14, 2016, including an addendum thereto dated February 11, 2016, (the "Plan") which addresses all provisions identified in Sections 1026(d)(3) and 1008(g) of Title 14 and also describes the ways in which redistricting, combined with other actions, will lead to higher-quality schools and improved student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education approved the Plan at a meeting of the Board on March 17, 2016;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 148th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, with the approval of the Governor, that the General Assembly supports the alteration of school district boundaries in New Castle County as presented in the Plan of the Commission and approved by the State Board of Education.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the support of the General Assembly and the Governor for the alteration of school district boundaries as presented in the Plan is conditioned upon the allocation of necessary and sufficient funding as described in the Plan and in the Redistricting Resolution contained therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly and the Governor intend that this Joint Resolution should fulfill the condition of 14 *Del. C*. § 1026(d)(1) and constitute final approval for purposes of 14 *Del. C*. § 1008(g).

SYNOPSIS

This House Joint Resolution fulfills the condition of 14 *Del C*. § 1026(d)(1) that the General Assembly must pass and the Governor must sign a Joint Resolution supporting the proposed changes to school district boundaries in New Castle County. It also recognizes that the Plan presented by the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and approved by the Board of Education will require necessary and sufficient funding to achieve the goals laid out therein for redistricting and improving student outcomes. This Joint Resolution also constitutes final approval of the transition and resource plan required under 14 *Del. C*. § 1008(g).