

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1991 SESSION

CHAPTER 78
SENATE BILL 457

AN ACT TO CONSOLIDATE ALL OF THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS IN GUILFORD COUNTY OR TO PROVIDE FOR THE TWO CITY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS IN THAT COUNTY TO HAVE BOUNDARIES COTERMINOUS WITH THE CITIES, SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM.

Whereas, the school administrative units in Guilford County have made commitments to pursue the goals of excellence and equity that can be achieved if predicated on school integration; and

Whereas, in order to achieve these goals, the General Assembly finds that it is imperative that equity in educational opportunity for all children be assured regardless of where the children reside and regardless of where the children attend school within Guilford County, in order that the needs of all children attending school in Guilford County are met, regardless of the children's race, gender, or social or economic condition; and

Whereas, to accomplish these goals, the General Assembly further finds that it is imperative that each school in Guilford County become and remain a school of excellence, with each providing the appropriate foundations that will enable graduating high school seniors to meet the standards of admission to a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, that the administrative, teaching, and educational support personnel of the school system as a whole reflect the demographic makeup of Guilford County, and that greater opportunity must be provided to all parents to become involved in supporting, enhancing, and nurturing their children's educational process; and

Whereas, if magnet schools or any other similar schools are developed to effect these goals, the General Assembly finds that these schools should provide for strong academic programs and for fair and equitable processes for student assignment and should provide a reasonable access to curriculum areas based upon student demand and a reasonable opportunity for all children in these schools to excel in those curriculum areas that they select; and

Whereas, while progress has been made in planning for and achieving these goals of excellence and equity, more remains to be done if the the children of Guilford County are to reach their full academic, vocational, civic, and human potential; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. CONSOLIDATION OF ALL THREE SYSTEMS

Section 1. The existing Guilford County School Administrative Unit, the existing Greensboro City School Administrative Unit, and the existing High Point City School Administrative Unit are consolidated effective July 1, 1993. The resulting consolidated school administrative unit shall be known as the Guilford County School Administrative Unit.

Sec. 2. (a) The Board of Education of the Guilford County School Administrative Unit shall be composed of eleven members elected on a nonpartisan primary basis at the time of the regular county primary and general elections except that in 1992 the dates of the primary and general election shall be in accordance with subsections (a1) and (b) of this section. One shall be elected from each of nine single-member districts established under subsection (g) of this section, and two shall be elected at large from within the entirety of Guilford County. The results shall be determined in accordance with G.S. 163-294.

The terms of office of members are staggered to allow for continuity on the Board, and all terms, following the initial terms, shall be for four years.

(a1) The initial primary election for the Guilford County Board of Education shall be held on Tuesday, March 10, 1992, and the initial general election shall be held on Tuesday, May 5, 1992.

(b) On Tuesday, May 5, 1992, members for Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8 shall be elected for two-year terms and members for Districts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 shall be elected for four-year terms. Also, on Tuesday, May 5, 1992, one of the two at-large members shall be elected for a two-year term; and the other at-large member shall be elected for a four-year term. In 1992, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected to a four-year term, and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes is elected to a two-year term. Thereafter, all members shall be elected for four-year terms at the same time as the regular primary and general election dates for county officers.

(c) The members elected in 1992 shall take the oath of office on Monday, June 1, 1992. At that time, this elected Board shall have and assume the powers and duties set forth in Section 4 of this act. On July 1, 1993, this Board shall have and assume all duties granted by law and shall supersede the previous board or boards that had previously administered and governed the schools in Guilford County.

(d) The districts set out in subsection (g) of this section are devised and constituted to meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and other applicable constitutional provisions. These districts shall remain the same until changed as provided by law and constitutional mandate.

(e) The qualified voters of Guilford County shall elect the at-large members of the board of education.

(f) The qualified voters of each district shall elect the member of the board of education for that district. Candidates must reside in the district for which they seek to be elected.

(g) The districts are as follows:

(1) District 1 consists of High Point precincts 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 21, and 22.

- (2) District 2 consists of High Point precincts 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24, and Deep River.
- (3) District 3 consists of Greensboro precincts 20, 27B, 27C, 34A, 34B, 37B, 38 and 39, and Bruce, North Center Grove, Friendship 1, Oak Ridge and Stokesdale.
- (4) District 4 consists of Greensboro precincts 19, 35B, 35C, 40B and 45, and Gibsonville, GIB-G, North Jefferson, South Jefferson, North Madison, South Madison, North Monroe, South Monroe, North Washington and South Washington.
- (5) District 5 consists of Greensboro precincts 24C and 43, and Clay, Fentress 1, Greene, Friendship 2, Jamestown 1, Jamestown 2, Jamestown 3, South Sumner and Whitsett.
- (6) District 6 consists of Greensboro precincts 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24A, 26B and 36, and Fentress 2 and North Sumner.
- (7) District 7 consists of Greensboro precincts 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 21, 27A, 28, 31, 32, 35A, 37A, 40A, 41A and 41B, and South Center Grove.
- (8) District 8 consists of Greensboro precincts 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 15, 24B, 25, 26A and 30.
- (9) District 9 consists of Greensboro precincts 1, 3, 6, 8, 29, 33, 42 and 44.

Sec. 3. Elections shall be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 115C and Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, except that the Guilford County Board of Elections shall establish the candidate filing period and for 1992 shall establish absentee voting timetables.

Sec. 4. The Board shall take office June 1, 1992, and shall immediately assume authority and responsibility for:

- (1) Electing a chairperson and other officers of the Board for one year terms;
- (2) Supervising, coordinating, acquiring, contracting for and constructing all new school buildings to be built within the boundaries of the existing three units;
- (3) Making contracts, hiring personnel and adopting policies and procedures for the 1993-94 and subsequent school years;
- (4) Otherwise planning for the implementation and operation of the consolidated system; and
- (5) Preparing and submitting to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners all necessary budgets for school purposes beginning with that for the 1993-94 school year as well as for its own operations prior to that school year.

Otherwise, except as provided by Section 9 of this act, the existing Guilford County and Greensboro and High Point City Boards of Education shall continue to administer their respective units until June 30, 1993.

Sec. 5. (a) The terms of the Guilford County, Greensboro City and High Point City Boards of Education members elected in 1990 who are in office on January 1, 1992, shall be extended through June 30, 1993. The terms of all other members of

the Guilford County and Greensboro City Boards of Education and all the members of the High Point City Board of Education in office on January 1, 1992, shall also expire June 30, 1993.

(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 163-125, a member of one of the three existing boards of education shall not be required to resign from the board in order to seek election to the new Guilford County Board of Education.

(c) Upon the effective date of consolidation, the existing Guilford County and Greensboro and High Point City Boards of Education are abolished and replaced by the new Guilford County Board of Education. The Board shall have all the powers and responsibilities previously provided for the Guilford County, Greensboro City and High Point City Boards and provided by State law generally for county boards of education.

(d) During the period from June 1, 1992 through June 30, 1993, the new Board shall be known as the Interim Guilford County Board of Education and on July 1, 1993, without the necessity of further action by any governmental body, that Board shall thereafter be known as the Guilford County Board of Education.

Sec. 6. Vacancies on the new Guilford County Board of Education shall be filled by vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board present and voting for the remainder of the unexpired term. In instances in which the member being replaced was elected from within a single member district, the Board must appoint a resident of the district where the vacancy exists.

Sec. 7. Upon the effective date of consolidation, the title to all property of the existing Guilford County Board of Education, the existing Greensboro City Board of Education and the existing High Point City Board of Education vests in the new Guilford County Board of Education established under this Part. All claims and demands of every kind which either of the three boards may have at the time of consolidation shall pass and be transferred to the Guilford County Board of Education and that Board shall have the same authority to enforce those claims and demands as the existing Guilford County and Greensboro and High Point City Boards would have if they continued to exist. Any obligations and liabilities of the existing Guilford County and Greensboro and High Point City Boards of Education shall become the obligations and liabilities of the Guilford County Board of Education at the time of consolidation, and those obligations and liabilities may be enforced against that Board to the same extent they might be enforced against the existing boards had they continued to exist.

Sec. 8. Any existing school tax in effect in Guilford County as of the effective date of this legislation shall continue in full force and effect until changed on a county-wide basis as provided by law.

Sec. 9. During the period beginning December 1, 1992, and ending with the abolition of those boards on July 1, 1993, the existing Guilford County Board of Education, the Greensboro City Board of Education, and the High Point City Board of Education may not enter into any contract for a capital outlay item, or appropriate any money for such item, or grant or increase any local salary supplement, or sell, lease, trade or otherwise encumber any property, real or personal, of any of the existing boards of education, without the approval of the Interim Guilford County Board of Education.

Sec. 10. (a) The Interim Guilford County Board of Education shall conduct a facilities study for the consolidated school system. The purpose of the study will be to identify the extent to which new facilities, modification or rehabilitation to existing facilities, or closing of existing facilities are needed. The study shall be conducted with emphasis on assuring the most efficient use of facilities and the most equitable manner in which facilities can be made available throughout Guilford County. The study shall, further, emphasize achieving the highest level of fiscal responsibility related to capital expenditures consistent with providing an excellent and equitable system of education.

(b) The Interim Guilford County Board of Education, as a part of such study, shall determine what portion, if any, of the identified capital needs it recommends be funded through bonded indebtedness. Should it be determined that bonded indebtedness is appropriate, the determination shall be in accordance with G.S. 115C-506.

Sec. 11. The Interim Guilford County Board of Education shall conduct an organizational study for the consolidated school system. The purpose of the study will be to determine the appropriate number and categories of administrative, supervisory and operational staff for the new system, and to determine the appropriate assignment and duties of such personnel. As a part of the study, the Board shall establish an equitable process relative to employment of such persons who held such positions in one of the existing three school systems. Where positions are not available for such persons because of any reduction in force relative to administrative, supervisory or operational personnel, the Board shall establish fair and equitable policies through which such persons can be given consideration for available vacant positions in which their past experience in that position, or as a principal or classroom teacher, or other certified personnel, can best be utilized for the benefit of the students in the new consolidated system.

Sec. 12. Any student enrolled in a given school at the end of the 1992-93 school year shall have the option, if otherwise qualified, of continuing to attend that school, if operational, until completion of the grades at that school.

Sec. 13. The rights provided under Article 22, Part 3 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes to persons who are employed by either of the three existing school systems at the time of consolidation shall continue under the new consolidated system to the same extent as if they were still employed in one of the three existing school systems.

Sec. 14. The Guilford County Board of Commissioners shall provide funds to the new Guilford County Board of Education sufficient to fund at least five positions in the Guilford County School Administrative Unit with such personnel's sole or primary responsibility being the development, implementation, maintenance, enhancement and coordination of parent involvement and student advocate initiatives. Such positions shall be funded at least for the period beginning July 1, 1993, through June 30, 1998, unless the new Guilford County Board of Education shall request that the positions not be funded. The duties and responsibilities of such personnel shall be such as will maximize cooperation and coordination with community, parental, civic, business, and other organizations that can be beneficial in assuring parental involvement

and student success. Advisory councils representative of the demographics existing at each school and representative of the community in which the school is located shall be established by the new Guilford County Board of Education to advise and assist the parental involvement/student advocacy personnel in fulfilling their purposes.

Sec. 15. (a) The Board of Commissioners of Guilford County shall provide adequate funding for the operations of the Interim Guilford County Board of Education in fulfillment of its responsibilities as are set out in this act during the period from June 1, 1992, through June 30, 1993.

(b) To assist in assuring that the quality of the educational programs existing within Guilford County shall not decline, local funding for current operating expenses for the consolidated system from 1993-94 will be provided by the Guilford County Commissioners at a per student rate which equals the budgeted local expense per student (average daily membership) of the Greensboro Public School System for fiscal year 1989-90 provided by and appropriated to said system by the Commissioners including the local supplemental tax as found in the adopted budget resolution of the Greensboro City Board of Education dated October 2, 1989, adjusted as follows. For years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, and 1994-95, the per student rate shall be increased annually by the percentage of salary increase for teachers funded by the State of North Carolina for each previous fiscal year. As used in this paragraph, local funding is not inclusive of any funding that was furnished by the State of North Carolina or the United States. For academic years, 1993-94 through 1998-99, the Guilford County Board of Education, through the use of generally accepted accounting principles, shall identify any net savings achieved as a direct result of consolidation. Such savings shall be reported to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and those savings may be considered by the Board of Commissioners during its budgeting process.

PART II. COTERMINOUS CITY UNITS

Sec. 16. From and after the effective date of this Part, the Greensboro City School administrative unit shall become, and thereafter shall be, coterminous with the city limits within Guilford County of the City of Greensboro. Upon any expansion within Guilford County of the city limits and concomitant jurisdiction of the City of Greensboro by annexation, or by other means, the Greensboro City School administrative unit shall expand, by operation of law, to include all the area within Guilford County that is added to and which becomes a part of the jurisdiction of the City of Greensboro within the city limits thereof, but shall not include, and shall not be a part of any extraterritorial jurisdiction that the City of Greensboro may, in its discretion as a government, decide to assume.

The Greensboro Board of Education shall plan for expansion of its administrative unit when it is apprised, by any means, of the proposed expansion of the city limits within Guilford County of the City of Greensboro, and shall be made aware of any proposed expansion of the city limits within Guilford County of the City of Greensboro by the elected officials of the City of Greensboro, by letter, at the time the City of Greensboro, through its elected officials, formally decides to expand its limits. The giving of such notice by the elected officials of the City of Greensboro shall not be a prerequisite to the duty of the Greensboro Board of Education to plan for expansion of

such Board's administrative unit. Such planning for expansion shall be a continuing duty of the Greensboro Board of Education.

Sec. 17. From and after the effective date of this Part, the school administrative unit of the High Point Board shall become and thereafter shall include the current boundaries of the City of High Point within Guilford County and will, further, include the High Point area specified in the Greensboro-High Point Joint Annexation Agreement adopted December 20, 1988, and duly placed on file in the Offices of the City Clerks in Greensboro and High Point, respectively, and will further include any future annexations within Guilford County. Provided, that if by September 1, 1991, the City of High Point and the Town of Jamestown have adopted a joint annexation agreement duly placed on file in the Offices of the City Clerks in High Point and Jamestown respectively, the school administrative unit of the High Point Board shall not include the Jamestown area specified in the agreement.

The High Point Board shall plan for expansion of its administrative unit when it is apprised, by any means, of the proposed expansion of the city limits in Guilford County of the City of High Point, and shall be made aware of any proposed expansion of the city limits in Guilford County of the City of High Point by the elected officials of the City of High Point by letter at the time the City of High Point, through its elected officials, formally decides to expand its limits. The giving of such notice by elected officials of the City of High Point shall not be a prerequisite to the duty of the High Point Board to plan for expansion of the High Point Board's administrative unit, which shall be a continuing duty of the High Point Board.

Sec. 18. After the effective date of this Part, students living in Guilford County outside the city limits of the City of Greensboro or outside of the boundaries that establish the extent to which the City of High Point city limits can be extended as set out in the Greensboro-High Point Joint Annexation Agreement adopted December 20, 1988, and duly placed on file in the Offices of the City Clerks in Greensboro and High Point, shall become and shall be students of the County Board, and the County Board shall assign such students to school in the administrative unit of the County Board. Provided, that if by September 1, 1991, the City of High Point and the Town of Jamestown have adopted a joint annexation agreement duly placed on file in the Offices of the City Clerks in High Point and Jamestown respectively, the students in the Jamestown area specified in the agreement shall not be assigned to school in the school administrative unit of the High Point City Board. The County Board shall do all things necessary and proper, according to law, for the assigning of students to school within the administrative unit.

Sec. 19. The respective Boards of Education of Greensboro, High Point and Guilford shall continue to have all the powers and all the authority that are presently reposed in and delegated to them by law, and the three shall have all the duties and responsibilities presently reposed in them by law, and shall have all authority and power to effect the purposes of this Part.

Sec. 20. (a) The enactment of this Part shall not change the membership and composition of the Greensboro Board of Education, the High Point Board of Education nor of the Guilford County Board of Education. The three boards shall remain as they

are by law presently composed except as provided by subsection (b) of this section. If the enactment of this Part shall later evince or suggest a need to change the membership or composition of any board which the enactment of this Part may affect, then such change may be made through appropriate legislation at that time, but no change is contemplated by this Part.

(b) The electoral districts of the three boards of education shall be changed by the respective boards when areas are added to or deleted from their respective school administrative units. After any such areas are added to or deleted, in order to conform to the purposes and provisions of this Part, such changes to the respective electoral districts shall be made no later than 60 days prior to the next filing date for election of members to the respective boards.

Sec. 21. (a) The respective boards of the three administrative units herein defined shall presently continue to use their respective buildings, property, equipment and other personalty and real estate as they have done in the past. The immediate effect of constituting the city limits in Guilford County of the named municipalities as the limits and outer boundaries of the administrative units of the City Board and the High Point Board may require that one or the other of the board's buildings and property shall be physically within the geographic limits of one of the other boards as defined by this act, or it may occur, upon the effective date of this act, or in the future, upon the expansion of the boundaries and jurisdictional limits of one or the other of the municipalities defined herein owing to the exercise of statutory annexation or some other reason, that the buildings, property, equipment, and other personalty of one of the boards shall be physically within the new limits of one of the boards defined in this act. In such an event or upon the happening of such an event, the administrative unit inside of whose boundaries the property is located shall have the authority to use real and personal property of the other board until such time as the ownership of the property shall be determined and payment or other consideration is made therefor, including payment of the use of all such property, by the Special Compensation Board, which is hereby provided for.

(b) Authority to create a Special Compensation Board, for the purpose of providing fair and equitable compensation to a board for the use and appropriation of its property by another board under the authority of this act is hereby given, delegated, and otherwise provided for.

(c) The number of the members of the Special Compensation Board shall be seven. One each shall be named to serve, by proper nomination and resolution of the respective boards and bodies, by the County Board, the City Board, the High Point Board, the City of Greensboro, the City of High Point, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, and the State Board of Education.

(d) The Special Compensation Board shall meet and adopt a plan of procedure and such bylaws and other devices of governance as it deems necessary. It may elect officers and a chairperson. This Board shall determine the just compensation that should be paid by a board that appropriates the property of another board for use when property of the one board comes within the area and limits of another board.

(e) The Special Compensation Board shall determine the properties that were financed, in whole or in part, by funds from the State of North Carolina, and for properties, real or personal, that were so financed no compensation shall be made. Only when the properties were financed by funds from the County of Guilford or the special school tax, or both, or from some other local source (such as the forfeiture of bonds by criminal defendants) shall compensation be made.

(f) The Special Compensation Board should make its findings of compensation within six months of the use or the appropriation by one education board from another.

(g) The Special Compensation Board need not use the fair market value approach to value in determining the compensation, but may consider that approach. The Special Compensation Board shall itemize its findings and conclusions in a report in which it makes its compensation report and this report shall be distributed to each of the boards and bodies represented by a member thereon.

(h) The Special Compensation Board shall, as a body with all members present, hear such evidence as the State Board of Education, the County of Guilford, the City of Greensboro, the City of High Point, and the three school administrative units defined herein wish to present. The Board shall also hear any evidence that any financial institution that has an interest in any of the property involved wishes to present. The Board shall hear any evidence that trustees under the indenture of, or officers concerned with, any outstanding bond issue that may or might affect the property wish to give. The Board may hear such other evidence that it wishes to hear.

(i) The Special Compensation Board shall not change the security of any financial institution, the obligations under any bonds, or the manner of financing any of the affected property, but it may and should recommend ways in which any affected bonds, financial arrangements, mortgages, security devices, indentures, or other devices can be assumed, assigned, or continued in effect by using an appropriating board or by other means, such as refinancing or refloating of a bond issue.

(j) The decision of the Special Compensation Board shall be based upon a majority vote of all the members, and the decision shall be presented in writing to all the parties. Upon its presentation the decision shall be final. Appeal may be taken to the Superior Court of Guilford County within 10 days of the presentation of the Special Compensation Board's written report, but the Superior Court shall affirm the Special Compensation Board's findings and conclusions unless it finds by clear and convincing proof from the evidence presented to it that the Special Compensation Board did not make its findings based on the evidence or on fair methods of appraisal.

(k) The board required by the Special Compensation Board to make compensation to another board shall take all the necessary steps to make the payments required and to assume all the obligations required thereunder. The board whose property is used or appropriated, or both, shall take all the necessary steps to convey property and otherwise to comply with the Special Compensation Board's decision.

Sec. 22. The tax rates currently applicable for support of the schools in the administrative units involved herein shall not be changed by the enactment of this Part, and all such taxes shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 23. The methods and legally instituted means of financing any of the property that might be affected by the use or appropriation, or both, of any such property by one of the three respective boards of education shall not be changed by enactment of this Part, and the board or entity responsible for paying or otherwise compensating any financial institution or other entity or person to whom payment or compensation is owed under any indenture, contract or other security or financing device shall continue to make all required payments or other compensation. Such payment or other compensation shall continue until such time as the using or appropriating board has assumed the payments and any other obligations and until such time as the affected institution, entity or person agrees to accept the new board as the responsible legal entity under the obligation and until such time as all legal documents required by the transfer, assignment, assumption or other legal or contractual devices are executed and approved. In lieu of assumption or assignment by an appropriating or using board, refinancing may be considered as a means of paying any outstanding obligations.

PART III. ELECTION AND OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 24. If a majority of the voters voting in the election vote in favor of Part I of this act, and it has not been approved under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by the time of opening of candidate filing for the Guilford County Board of Education or the Greensboro City Board of Education, then the Guilford County Board of Elections, with the approval of the United States Department of Justice, may delay the opening and closing dates for filing of the old Guilford County Board of Education and the Greensboro City Board of Education scheduled to be elected in 1992. This is necessary because the previously scheduled election is not canceled until Part I of this act is approved under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Sec. 25. Submission of this act under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 shall be made jointly by the attorneys for the three consolidating units under G.S. 120-30.9G.

Sec. 26. Any student enrolled in a given school at the effective date of Part II of this act will have the option, if otherwise qualified, of continuing to attend a school within that school system until completion of the highest grade that was available at the school in which the student was enrolled.

Sec. 27. Part I or II of this act shall not become effective unless approved by the voters of Guilford County. The Guilford County Board of Elections shall place the question of approval of Part I or Part II of this act before the citizens of Guilford County through referendum on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1991.

Sec. 28. (a) The form of the ballot shall be:

"VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CHOICE

1. FOR consolidation of the three school administrative units in Guilford County into one administrative unit.
2. FOR the Greensboro City School Administrative Unit to have the same boundaries in Guilford county as the current City of Greensboro, and shall expand to include all areas in Guilford County that might hereafter be added to the City of Greensboro; and the High Point City

School Administrative Unit to have the current boundaries of the City of High Point within Guilford County, including the area specified in the Greensboro-High Point Joint Annexation Agreement adopted December 20, 1988, and duly placed on file in the Offices of the City Clerks in Greensboro and High Point, respectively, and will include any future annexations within Guilford County."

(b) If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of question 1, then Part I of this act shall become effective upon the date of certification of the election results, and Part II of this act shall have no force or effect.

(c) If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of question 2, then Part II of this act shall become effective upon the date of certification of the election results, and Part I of this act shall have no force or effect.

Sec. 29. The Guilford County Board of Elections shall certify the results of any election held under this act to the Secretary of State of North Carolina.

Sec. 30. Notwithstanding any provisions of this act to the contrary, if each of the three existing boards of education in Guilford County should agree to and adopt a Plan of Consolidation in accordance with law prior to August 1, 1991, and should the State Board of Education approve the plan prior to September 1, 1991, then Part II and Part III of this act shall be void, and consolidation of the three school systems shall occur as specified in this act and in accordance with any other provisions that may be contained in the Plan of Consolidation that are not in conflict with any provision of this act. After such approval by the State Board of Education, none of the parties to that Plan may withdraw their approval.

Sec. 31. This act is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 8th day of May, 1991.

James C. Gardner
President of the Senate

Daniel Blue, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives