

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2 STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO  
3 CONVENE A TASK FORCE REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY OF COMBINING THE DIVI-  
4 SION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND  
5 VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, in an effort to eliminate duplication and to increase service  
8 delivery to clients, in 2002, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force recom-  
9 mended reorganizing the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Of-  
10 fice of the State Board of Education into one administrative unit with sep-  
11 arate budgetary divisions reporting to the Executive Director of the Office  
12 of the State Board of Education; and

13 WHEREAS, currently the Administrator of the Division of Vocational Re-  
14 habilitation reports to the Executive Director of the Office of the State  
15 Board of Education but receives separate budgetary appropriations, which  
16 limits their ability to share administrative resources; and

17 WHEREAS, there has been interest in the past of merging the Division of  
18 Vocational Rehabilitation and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Im-  
19 paired to save on the costs of functions such as information technology and  
20 fiscal and management positions; and

21 WHEREAS, it would be valuable to evaluate cost data from other states  
22 that once had separate agencies for vocational rehabilitation and the blind  
23 and visually impaired, then combined them to present a solid pre and post  
24 comparison; and

25 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes it would be valuable to have the State  
26 Board of Education convene a task force to gauge the feasibility of combining  
27 the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Commission for the Blind  
28 and Visually Impaired.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
30 sion of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives  
31 and the Senate concurring therein, that the State Board of Education is re-  
32 quested to convene a task force to gauge the feasibility and identify the  
33 pros and cons of combining the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and  
34 the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, including impacts on  
35 services, both positive and negative as well as a governance model.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should identify opportu-  
37 nities to increase efficiencies, streamline federal reporting processes,  
38 decrease duplication and enhance coordination for the overall benefit of  
39 each agency's clients and that membership of the task force shall include  
40 Coalitions of Advocates for the Disabled, the Vocational Rehabilitation  
41 Council, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Devel-  
42 opmental Disability Council, with the State Board of Education appointing

1 all members and the chair of the task force except that the Commission for the  
2 Blind and Visually Impaired shall appoint two members.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administrators of the Division of Vo-  
4 cational Rehabilitation and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Im-  
5 paired, the Division of Financial Management and the Budget and Policy Anal-  
6 ysis Division of the Legislative Services Office shall be ex officio nonvot-  
7 ing members of the task force.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and  
9 recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Leg-  
10 islature, to the Division of Financial Management and the Joint Finance-  
11 appropriations Committee.