

RESOLUTION

No. 2010/03/01

**Out-of-order**

To the HONORABLE CROCKETT LEE, Chairman, and Members of the Hawkins County Board of Commission in Regular Session, met this 22nd day of March, 2010.

**RESOLUTION IN REF:** TO URGE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OPPOSE SB2938/HB3590 (local property tax to fund education requested by a special school district)

WHEREAS, county commissions currently play a significant role of budgetary oversight for K-12 schools in Tennessee and must balance these needs and responsibilities with other demands for critical services to county residents in order to keep the overall tax burden on our citizens from becoming too onerous; and

WHEREAS, in special school districts, the Tennessee General Assembly, through a private act, levies a local property tax to fund education in the district often with very little discussion or consideration of the tax rate requested by the school district; and

WHEREAS, SB2938/HB3590, as introduced, would allow any local education agency ("LEA") to convert to a special school district a thereby remove all county commission oversight over the local school system; and

WHEREAS, the change authorized by this legislation would allow the elimination of the current system of checks and balances created by having county commission approval of school budgets and setting a tax rate for schools; and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation, would create a decentralized system of governance comprised of different taxing entities with competing interests and would potentially interfere with efficiencies created by purchasing and contracting for basic needs of governmental functions on a centralized basis by separating the school system from the rest of the operations of county government;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hawkins County, meeting in regular session on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2010, that the Tennessee General Assembly is strongly urged to oppose this legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county clerk shall mail certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly representing the people of Hawkins County and send a copy to executive director of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association.

See attached letter

Introduced By Esq. \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By Esq. \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted 3-15-10

A. Carroll Jenkins  
County Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

ACTION: AYE NAY PASSED

Roll Call \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Vote \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE ACTION

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Tennessee County Commissioners Association

David Connor, Executive Director  
226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 700  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1896

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*TCCA Dedicated to More Efficient County Government since 1969*

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TO: Chairs of County Legislative Bodies

FROM: David Connor, Executive Director – TCCA

RE: HB 3590/SB2938

DATE: March 10, 2010

I am writing to make you aware of legislation currently moving through the Tennessee House of Representatives and to ask you to consider the attached sample resolution. House Bill 3590/Senate Bill 2938 would authorize any existing school district to convert to a special school district. This would remove the county commission oversight over the budget of the school system and remove the operations of the schools out from under county government in general. If this act passes, any school system could ask for a special act to convert the school district to a special school district with the property tax rate for the school system set by the General Assembly rather than the county commission. Tennessee School Boards have been very aggressive in contacting members of the General Assembly in support of this legislation. County government associations are opposing it, but it is critical on issues of this nature for Senators and Representatives to hear from their local elected officials on this topic.

If you agree that this legislation creates serious public policy concerns, I hope you would contact your legislators and consider passing the attached sample resolution at your next county commission meeting. As stated in the resolution, please have the county clerk mail certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly representing your county. Also, please send a copy to the TCCA office at the above address.

Thanks for your time and attention to this issue.

David Connor  
TCCA

