

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: H

Date: February 23, 2017

Title	Report on 2017 General Assembly		
Presenter	Dr. Cynthia A. Cave, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications		
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Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

No action requested.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

X	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
X	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
X	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
X	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
X	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
X	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority: This report provides summaries of K-12 legislation introduced thus far in the 2017 General Assembly that will require action by the Board of Education or the Virginia Department of Education or otherwise relates to the work of the Board or impacts local school divisions. The bills address the following Board goals:

Goal 1: The legislation addresses accountability for student learning.

Goal 2: The legislation addresses rigorous standards to promote college and career readiness. .

Goal 3: The legislation addresses expanded opportunities to learn as related to virtual courses.

Goal 5: The legislation addresses highly qualified and effective educators by consideration of training and preparation.

Goal 6: The legislation addresses sound policies for student success.

Summary of Important Issues: The attached report lists selected K-12 bills introduced thus far in the General Assembly, which will require action by the Board of Education or the Department of Education, or otherwise relate to the work of the Board or impact local school divisions.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources: Department staff will provide the staff resources to assist the Board in developing the policies, guidance and regulations necessary to implement final actions by the General Assembly and Governor.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: These items will come before the Board for appropriate action later in 2017.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept this report.

Legislative Report

Selected K-12 Bills Introduced in the 2017 General Assembly February 22, 2017

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Appropriation Act

HB 1500 House Budget Bill.

- The 1.5 percent pay bonus proposed for SOQ instructional and support positions in the introduced budget would be eliminated in the House budget.
- Provides \$219 million in supplemental lottery per-pupil allocations. School divisions would receive \$313.50 per student with no required local match. The introduced budget would provide \$157 million, or \$225.25 per student with no local match. The \$56 million in additional funding comes from the elimination of the 1.5 percent bonus for SOQ instructional and support positions.
- \$ 9 million in enrollment loss funds is proposed to be distributed to school divisions with fewer than 10,000 students that have experienced a ten percent or greater loss in enrollment in the last ten years.

SB 900 Senate Budget Bill.

- In lieu of the 1.5 percent bonus proposed for SOQ instructional and support positions in the introduced budget, the Senate budget includes the state share of a 2.0 percent teacher pay increase provided by a school division at any time during the 2016-18 biennium. Therefore, school divisions that provided raises during FY 2016-17, even though the state funds for such raises were eliminated, will have access to these funds.
- Provides \$129 million in supplemental lottery per-pupil allocations. School divisions would receive \$185.58 per student with no required local match. The introduced budget would provide \$157 million, or \$225.25 per student with no local match. The Senate budget redirects \$28 million of these funds to provide the 2.0 percent pay increase.
- \$ 7 million in enrollment loss funds is proposed to be distributed to school divisions that lost 1.5 percent of their respective enrollments from the prior year.

Accreditation

HB 1708 Board of Ed; standards of accred; industry cert. credentials obtained by high school students.

Chief patron: Filler-Corn

Summary as introduced:

Board of Education; standards of accreditation; industry certification credentials obtained by high school students. Requires the Board of Education to include in the student outcome measures included in the standards of accreditation the number of industry certification credentials, as defined in relevant law, obtained by high school students.

Note: Bill has been amended to request Board consideration of industry certification and credentials as defined by the Board, instead of requiring such. Bill was also amended to require the Board to report its conclusions on such consideration to the General Assembly by November 2017, and to delay the Board from including the number of such credentials in the student outcome measures in the Standards of Accreditation until the 2018 General Assembly session. Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

SB 1098 Standards of Quality; standards for accreditation in public schools.

Chief patron: Newman

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; standards for accreditation. Requires that the regulations establishing standards for accreditation adopted by the Board of Education ensure that the accreditation process is transparent and based on objective measurements and that any appeal of the accreditation status of a school is heard and decided by the Board.

Note: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Passed House (98-Y 0-N).

Assessments

HB 1414 Standards of Quality; end-of-grade assessments.

Chief patron: Austin

Summary as introduced:

End-of-course and end-of-grade assessments; partial credit. Provides that when any end-of-course or end-of-grade assessment is scored, any student who provides a correct answer on at least one part of a multipart assessment question shall be awarded the appropriate amount of partial credit for such question.

Note: Bill has been amended to instead require the Department to study Standards of Learning assessment questions and determine the feasibility of awarding students partial credit for correct answers. Bill was also amended to require the Department to report its determination to the General Assembly by November 2017, and to delay the Department from implementing the award of partial credit until the 2018 General Assembly session. Passed House (94-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

SB 1099 Standards of Quality; assessments; terms.

Chief patron: Newman

Summary as introduced:

Standards of Quality; assessments; terms. Changes the term used to refer to certain assessments to "locally developed assessments" from "alternative assessments." Under current law, two distinct assessments are referred to as "alternative assessments." To provide further clarity, the bill also requires local school boards, when administering the locally developed assessments, to distinguish between locally developed assessments and Standards of Learning assessments.

Note: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). House subcommittee recommended laying on the table.

SB 1089 Public schools; Standards of Learning assessments.

Chief patron: Sturtevant

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; Standards of Learning assessments. Reduces the total number and type of required Standards of Learning assessments to the minimum requirements established by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-10, as amended.

Note: Senate Education and Health Committee referred to Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth.

Board of Education

HB 2285 Gubernatorial appointments to boards; membership and terms.

Chief patron: Cole

Summary as introduced:

Gubernatorial appointments to boards; membership and terms. Clarifies and corrects the statutory requirements for the membership and terms of several boards. The bill also standardizes the term dates for several appointments to the Latino Advisory Board, the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Board of Education, and the Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals so that all terms begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

Note: Passed House (98-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 2341 Board of Education; membership.

Chief patron: Landes

Summary as introduced:

Board of Education; membership. Requires at least two of the nine members of the Board of Education to represent business and industry in the private sector in the Commonwealth.

Note: Passed House (92-Y 7-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

Charter Schools

HB 2218 Public charter school applications and charter agreements; review by the Board of Education.

Chief patron: Miyares

Summary as introduced:

Public charter school applications and charter agreements; review by the Board of Education. Permits the Board to remand to a school board for further consideration any denied public charter school application or revoked or nonrenewed charter agreement in any school division in which at least half of the schools receive funding pursuant to Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, upon finding insufficient rationale for such denial, revocation, or nonrenewal based on documentation submitted to the Board by the school board.

Note: Amended bill no longer includes a procedure for denied public school applications to be remanded to the Board. Instead, the Board would be authorized to communicate any Board finding related to the rationale for a local school board's denial of a charter school application, in school divisions where at least half of the schools are receiving Title I, Part A funds. Passed House (58-Y 38-N). Passed Senate (21-Y 19-N).

HB 2342 Public schools; Board of Education to establish regional charter school divisions.

Chief patron: Landes

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; regional charter school divisions. Authorizes the Board of Education (Board) to establish regional charter school divisions consisting of two or more existing school divisions in regions in which one or more of the underlying school divisions have an enrollment of more than 3,000 students and one or more schools that have accreditation denied status for two out of the past three years. The bill requires such regional charter school divisions to be supervised by a school board that consists of eight members appointed by the Board and one member appointed by the localities of each of the underlying divisions.

The bill authorizes the school board, after a review by the Board, to review and approve public charter school applications in the regional charter school divisions and to contract with the applicant. The bill requires the state share of Standards of Quality per pupil funding of the underlying school district in which the public charter school is physically located transferred to such school.

Note: Amended to provide clarity about how the proposed law would interact with existing school board powers and duties and existing charter school law. The amendments include significant exemptions from several Standards of Quality requirements, including: instructional programs, teacher licensure, staffing ratios, graduation requirements, professional development, comprehensive planning, and school board policies. Identical to SB 1283. Passed House (55-Y 42-N). Passed Senate (21-Y 19-N).

SB 1283 Public schools; Board of Education to establish regional charter school divisions.

Chief patron: Obenshain

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; regional charter school divisions. Authorizes the Board of Education (Board) to establish regional charter school divisions consisting of two or more existing school divisions in regions in which one or more of the underlying school divisions have an enrollment of more than 3,000 students and one or more schools that have accreditation denied status for two out of the past three years. The bill requires such regional charter school divisions to be supervised by a school board that consists of eight members appointed by the Board and one member appointed by the localities of each of the underlying divisions.

The bill authorizes the school board, after a review by the Board, to review and approve public charter school applications in the regional charter school divisions and to contract with the applicant. The bill requires the state share of Standards of Quality per pupil funding of the underlying school district in which the public charter school is physically located transferred to such school.

Note: Amended to provide clarity about how the proposed law would interact with existing school board powers and duties and existing charter school law. The amendments include significant exemptions from several Standards of Quality requirements, including: instructional programs, teacher licensure, staffing ratios, graduation requirements, professional development, comprehensive planning, and school board policies. Identical to HB 2342. Passed Senate (21-Y 19-N). Passed House (54-Y 43-N).

CTE/STEM

HB 1663 Establishment of Computer Science for All Virginia Students Advisory Committee.

Chief patron: Greason

Summary as introduced:

Establishment of Computer Science for All Virginia Students Advisory Committee and Computer Science for All Virginia Students public-private partnership. Declares CodeVA Inc. to be the Computer Science for All Virginia Students public-private partnership (the public-private partnership) and requires the public-private partnership to establish and administer the Computer Science for All Virginia Students Initiative for the purpose of developing, marketing, and implementing high-quality and effective computer science training and professional development activities for public school teachers throughout the Commonwealth. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to establish the Computer Science for All Virginia Students Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the public-private partnership on such training and professional development activities.

Note: Bill has been amended to instead require Northern Virginia Community College, in consultation with the Department, to contract with a nonprofit to provide computer science training and professional development for teachers, and to establish an advisory committee on such matters. Passed House (97-Y 0-N). The Senate added an enactment clause that would require a corresponding appropriation to the Virginia Community College System in order for the bill to take effect. The House rejected the Senate amendments (1-Y 98-N), and the bill may go into a conference committee.

SB 1493 Computer Science for All Virginia Students Advisory Committee, established.

Chief patron: McClellan

Summary as introduced:

Establishment of Computer Science for All Virginia Students Advisory Committee and Computer Science for All Virginia Students public-private partnership. Declares CodeVA, Inc., to be the Computer Science for All Virginia Students public-private partnership (the public-private partnership) and requires the public-private partnership to establish and administer the Computer Science for All Virginia Students Initiative for the purpose of developing, marketing, and implementing high-quality and effective computer science training and professional development activities for public school teachers throughout the Commonwealth. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to establish the Computer Science for All Virginia Students Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the public-private partnership on such training and professional development activities.

Note: Bill has been amended to instead require Northern Virginia Community College, in consultation with the Department, to contract with a nonprofit to provide computer science training and professional development for teachers, and to establish an advisory committee on such matters. An enactment clause is added that would require a corresponding appropriation to the Virginia Community College System in order for the bill to take effect. Passed Senate (39-Y 1-N). Amended by House Education Committee remove the enactment clause. Passed House (99-Y 0-N). Senate rejected the House amendments (0-Y 40-N), and the House has requested a conference committee.

Data Collection and Reporting

HB 2141 Public education; Board of Education to report on condition and needs.

Chief patron: LeMunyon

Summary as introduced:

Board of Education; report on the condition and needs of public education; local school division reports. Requires the Board of Education's annual report on the condition and needs of public education in the Commonwealth to include an explanation of the need to retain or maintain the frequency of any report that local school divisions are required to submit to the Board of Education or any other state agency; any recommendation for the elimination, reduction in frequency, or consolidation of such reports when such elimination, reduction in frequency, or consolidation would require an amendment to the laws of the Commonwealth; and a description of any other such report that the Board has eliminated, reduced in frequency, or consolidated.

Note: Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

Funding

HB 2332 Teachers; compensation at rate competitive with national average salary.

Chief patron: Tyler

Summary as introduced:

Teacher compensation; goal. Adds to the stated goal of the Commonwealth for teacher compensation that its public school teachers be compensated at a rate that is competitive with the national average teacher salary.

Note: Bill amended to clarify such goal for salaries should be at or above the national average. Passed House (98-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

Graduation requirements

HB 1982 Graduation requirements; verified units of credit, satisfactory score on the PSAT examination.

Chief patron: Greason

Summary as introduced:

Graduation requirements; verified units of credit; satisfactory score on the PSAT examination. Requires the Board of Education, in establishing graduation requirements, to provide for the award of verified units of credit for a satisfactory score on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) examination.

Note: Bill was amended to specify that the Board would determine the cut scores and to also include the PreACT examination. Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 2142 High school graduation; delays by one year implementation of redesigned requirements.

Chief patron: LeMunyon

Summary as introduced:

Redesigned high school graduation requirements; implementation; one-year delay. Delays by one year the implementation of the redesigned high school graduation requirements established pursuant to Chapter 750 of the Acts of Assembly of 2016.

Note: Passed House (56-Y 41-N). Stricken at the request of patron in Senate Education and Health committee.

SB 1556 Education, Board of; graduation requirements.

Chief patron: Newman

Summary as introduced:

Board of Education; graduation requirements. Requires the Board of Education's graduation requirements to require a student to earn at least one verified credit in each of the following subjects: mathematics, reading, writing, science, and history and social science. The bill requires a student to achieve a passing score on the associated end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment to earn a verified credit. The bill prohibits the associated end-of course Standards of Learning assessment from being diluted or replaced by another assessment.

Note: Bill referred to Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth.

SB 1584 High school graduation; verified credit, locally selected, recognized academic assessments.

Chief patron: Suetterlein

Summary as introduced:

High school graduation requirements; verified credit; locally selected, nationally recognized high school academic assessments. Requires the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to provide for the award of verified units of credit for satisfactory scores on locally selected, nationally recognized high school academic assessments approved by the Board in lieu of the correlated Standards of Learning assessments.

Note: Bill referred to Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth.

Home Instruction

HB 1578 Students who receive home instruction; participation in interscholastic programs.

Chief patron: Bell, Robert B.

Summary as introduced:

Students who receive home instruction; participation in interscholastic programs. Prohibits public schools from joining an organization governing interscholastic programs that does not deem eligible for participation a student who (i) receives home instruction; (ii) has demonstrated evidence of progress for two consecutive academic years; (iii) is in compliance with immunization requirements; (iv) is entitled to free tuition in a public school;(v) has not reached the age of 19 by August 1 of the current academic year;(vi) is an amateur who receives no compensation but participates solely for the educational, physical, mental, and social

benefits of the activity;(vii) complies with all disciplinary rules and is subject to all codes of conduct applicable to all public high school athletes; and (viii) complies with all other rules governing awards, all-star games, maximum consecutive semesters of high school enrollment, parental consents, physical examinations, and transfers applicable to all high school athletes. The bill provides that no local school board is required to establish a policy to permit students who receive home instruction to participate in interscholastic programs. The bill permits reasonable fees to be charged to students who receive home instruction to cover the costs of participation in such interscholastic programs, including the costs of additional insurance, uniforms, and equipment. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2022.

Note: Passed House (60-Y 38-N). Passed Senate (22-Y 18-N).

HB 2007 Students who receive home instruction; dual enrollment courses.

Chief patron: Bell, Robert B.

Summary as introduced:

Students who receive home instruction; dual enrollment courses. Requires each school board to permit any student who receives home instruction and resides in the local school division to apply for enrollment as a part-time student of the local school division in any dual enrollment course offered pursuant to an agreement for postsecondary degree attainment at a public high school in the local school division or at the comprehensive community college. The bill specifies that no such student shall be required to pay more in tuition or fees than the tuition or fees paid by public school students to enroll in such course

Note: Passed House (64-Y 33-N). Reported from Senate Education and Health and referred to Finance. Failed to report from Senate Finance.

HB 2355 Students receiving home instruction; participation in AP and PSAT/NMSQT.

Chief patron: Pogge

Summary as introduced:

Students receiving home instruction; participation in Advanced Placement and Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test examinations. Requires school boards to (i) make Advanced Placement (AP) and Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) examinations available to students receiving home instruction, (ii) adopt written policies that specify the date by which such students shall register to participate in such examinations, and (iii) notify such students and their parents of such registration deadline and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take such examinations.

Note: Amended to also include the PreACT examination. Passed House (98-Y 0-N). Passed Senate 40-Y 0-N).

SB 1414 Students receiving home instruction; participation in AP and PSAT/NMSQT.

Chief patron: Newman

Summary as introduced:

Students receiving home instruction; participation in Advanced Placement and Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test examinations. Requires school boards to (i) make Advanced Placement (AP) and Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) examinations available to students receiving home instruction, (ii) adopt written policies that specify the date by which such students shall register to participate in such examinations, and (iii) notify such students and their parents of such registration deadline and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take such examinations.

Note: Bill amended to also include the PreACT examination. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Passed House (99-Y 0-N).

Instruction and Curriculum

HB 2257 High school family life education curricula; elements of effective and evidence-based programs.

Chief patron: Filler-Corn

Summary as introduced:

High school family life education curricula; elements of effective and evidence-based programs on consent. Requires any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on consent.

Note: Bill was amended to clarify that such elements should be on “the law and meaning of consent.” and that such elements shall be permitted rather than required. Passed House (92-Y 4-N). Passed Senate (38-Y 2-N).

HB 2290 Driver education programs; instruction concerning traffic stops.

Chief patron: Ward

Summary as introduced:

Driver education programs; instruction concerning traffic stops. Requires each driver education program in the public school system to include instruction concerning traffic stops, including law-enforcement procedures for traffic stops, appropriate actions to be taken by drivers during traffic stops, and appropriate interactions with law-enforcement officers who initiate traffic stops.

Note: Bill was amended to require the Board of Education to collaborate with the Department of State Police to implement the bill. Passed House (95-Y 4-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

SB 1245 Public education; economics education and financial literacy.

Chief patron: Dunnavant

Summary as introduced:

Public education; economics education and financial literacy. Requires the Board of Education (Board) to include evaluating the economic value of a postsecondary degree, including the net cost of attendance, potential student loan debt, and potential earnings, in the Board's objectives for economics education and financial literacy. The bill requires the Board to amend such objectives by July 1, 2018.

Note: Bill amended to replace the term “postsecondary degree” with “postsecondary studies.” Passed House (99-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

SB 1475 Family life education; changes to curriculum guidelines and curricula.

Chief patron: McClellan

Summary as introduced:

Family life education; curriculum guidelines and curricula. Makes changes to family life education curriculum guidelines and curricula, including (i) requiring family life education curriculum guidelines to include instruction as appropriate for the age of the student in the benefits, challenges, responsibilities, and value of family relationships for men, women, children, and communities; (ii) amending the definition of "abstinence education" for the purposes of such curriculum guidelines; and (iii) permitting the age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on sexual violence that are required to be incorporated into any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity.

Note: Bill amended to change (i) above to require family life education guidelines include age-appropriate instruction on the value of family relationships, and to eliminate (ii) above. Passed Senate (37-Y 2-N). Bill further amended by the House to make a minor technical amendment. Passed House (100-Y 0-N). Bill now will return to the Senate to consider House amendment.

Local School Boards

HB 1490 School board members who are called to active duty; appointment of acting school board members.

Chief patron: Marshall, R.G.

Summary as introduced:

School board members who engage in war service or are called to active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States; appointment of acting school board members. Requires each school board member who is relieved from the duties of his office by reason of engaging in the war service of the United States when called forth by the Governor or being called to active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States to (i) designate some suitable person to perform the duties of such office as acting school board member during the period in which the regular school board member is engaged in such war service or active duty or (ii) submit to the school board a list of names of suitable persons to perform the duties of such office as acting school board member during the period in which the regular school board member is engaged in such war service or active duty, in which case the school board is required to appoint an acting school board member from such list of names. The bill provides that during such period, the acting school board member shall be vested with all the powers, authority, rights, and duties of the regular school board member for whom he is acting.

Note: Bill amended to eliminate option (i) above. Passed House (63-Y 36-N). Bill further amended by the Senate to permit school board to decline appointment of the individuals provided in the list, and to require the school board to provide reasons it declined the appointment to the school board member who is on active duty. Passed Senate (26-Y 14-N). Bill will now return to the House to consider Senate amendments.

HB 1981 School Divisions of Innovation; definition, regulatory and statutory provisions.

Chief patron: Greason

Summary as introduced:

School Divisions of Innovation. Requires the Board to promulgate regulations for the designation of School Divisions of Innovation in which the local school board in the local school division so designated shall, pursuant to a plan of innovation, be exempted from certain regulatory and statutory provisions and be permitted to adopt alternative policies for school administrators, teachers, and staff to meet the diverse needs of students and to improve student learning; educational performance; and college, career, and citizenship readiness skills in each school in the local school division.

Note: Bill amended to eliminate ability to waive statutory provisions and to allow individual schools to be designated as divisions of innovation. House (96-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 2191 School boards; procedures for handling sexually explicit instructional materials, etc.

Chief patron: Landes

Summary as introduced:

School boards; procedures; sexually explicit instructional materials or related academic activities. Requires each school board's procedures for handling challenged controversial instructional materials to include procedures for (i) annually notifying the parent of any student enrolled in a course in which the instructional materials or related academic activities may include sexually explicit content of the potential for such sexually explicit content in such course and (ii) providing, as a replacement for instructional materials or related academic activities that include sexually explicit content, nonexplicit instructional materials or related academic activities to any student whose parent so requests.

Note: Bill amended to permit notification later in school year if necessary, and to define "sexually explicit" as any content that involves any felonious criminal sexual assault described in Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, and felonious crimes against nature as described in § 18.2-361. Passed House (71-Y 25-N). Passed Senate (22-Y 18-N).

HB 2354 Conflicts of interest; school board employees.

Chief patron: Rush

Summary as introduced:

Conflicts of interest; school board employees. Eliminates the prohibitions against any division superintendent recommending for employment and any school board employing or paying any teacher or other school board employee who is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, or brother-in-law of the division superintendent or any member of the school board.

Note: Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Bill amended by Senate to only exempt school divisions from the prohibition that lie within Planning District 4 (New River Valley). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Bill will return to House for consideration of Senate amendments.

Another bill, HB 1727 (Ransone) has passed which would exempt school divisions within Planning District 17 (Northern Neck). During prior General Assembly sessions, exemptions from the prohibition have been granted for school divisions in four other planning districts in rural parts of Virginia.

Parental Choice

HB 1605 Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts established.

Chief patron: LaRock

Summary as introduced:

Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts established. Permits the parent of a public preschool, elementary, or secondary school student to apply to the school division in which the student resides for a one-year, renewable Parental Choice Education Savings Account that consists of an amount that is equivalent to a certain percentage of all applicable annual Standards of Quality per pupil state funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the resident school division in which the student resides, including the per pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid and any state per pupil share of special education funding to which the student is eligible. The bill permits the parent to use the moneys in such account for certain education-related expenses of the student, including tuition, deposits, fees, and required textbooks at a private sectarian, or nonsectarian elementary or secondary school or preschool that is located in the Commonwealth and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The bill also contains provisions relating to auditing, rescinding, and reviewing expenses made from such accounts.

Note: Bill amended by the Senate to limit savings account eligibility to only low income students with disabilities, and to alter audit requirements. Bill also amended to add a clause requiring re-enactment by the 2018 General Assembly in order for the bill to take effect. Passed Senate (21-Y 19-N). Passed House (50-Y 49-N).

Special Education

HB 2395 Public Schools; dyslexia advisor.

Chief patron: Cline

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; dyslexia advisor. Requires one reading specialist employed by each local school board to have training in the identification of and the appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder and to serve as an advisor on dyslexia and related disorders.

Note: Bill amended to require such dyslexia advisor, only if the division employs a reading specialist. Passed House (96-Y 0-N). Bill further amended by the Senate to require either a reading specialist or school psychologist to serve as the dyslexia advisor, if the division employs either a reading specialist or dyslexia advisor, and to add specific qualifications for such advisor. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). House rejected Senate amendments (1-Y 96-N), and Senate has requested a conference committee.

SB 1516 Public Schools; dyslexia advisor.

Chief patron: Black

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; dyslexia advisor. Requires one reading specialist employed by each local school board to have training in the identification of and the appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder and to serve as an advisor on dyslexia and related disorders

Note: Bill amended to require such dyslexia advisor, only if the division employs a reading specialist, and to add specific qualifications for such advisor. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Bill further amended by the House to remove the specific qualifications that were proposed by the Senate. Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Senate rejected House amendments (0-Y 40-N). The bill is currently in conference.

Standards of Quality (SOQ)

HB 1552 Local school boards; student and parent notification; career and technical education programs.

Chief patron: Bulova

Summary as introduced:

Local school boards; student and parent notification; career and technical education programs. Requires each local school board to implement a plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of career and technical education programs.

Note: This was recommended by the Board of Education during its Standards of Quality review. Bill was amended to require school division website to include notice of opportunity for high school students to obtain a nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college, or workforce center. Passed House (98-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 2014 Standards of quality; biennial review by Board of Education.

Chief patron: Keam

Summary as introduced:

Biennial review of the standards of quality required. Changes from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years the biennial review of the standards of quality that is required of the Board of Education.

Note: This was recommended by the Board of Education during its Standards of Quality review. Passed House (98-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 2174 School boards; annual report on pupil/teacher ratios, class size limits.

Chief patron: Murphy

Summary as introduced:

School boards; pupil/teacher ratios; class size limits; public report. Requires each school board to annually report to the public (i) the actual pupil/teacher ratios in middle school and high school academic courses by school, subject, course, and teacher for the current school year and (ii) each classroom in the local school division that exceeds the relevant class size limit established by law, identifying such classroom by school, subject, course or class, and teacher.

Note: Bill amended to remove reporting by teacher in (i) and (ii) above, and to clarify that the reporting requirement applies to schools in the school division for the current school year. Passed Senate (38-Y 1-N). Passed House 58-Y 38-N).

Student Discipline

HB 1534 Student discipline; long-term suspension.

Chief patron: Bell, Richard P.

Summary as introduced:

Student discipline; long-term suspension. Reduces the maximum length of a long-term suspension from 364 calendar days to 45 school days. The bill prohibits a long-term suspension from extending beyond the current grading period unless aggravating circumstances exist and prohibits a long-term suspension from extending beyond the current school year.

Note: Bill amended to reduce the maximum length of such suspension to 90 school days instead of 45 school days; however, suspensions longer than 45 days would only be permissible if aggravating circumstances exist, and to provide that any length of any suspension longer than 45 days shall be re-evaluated every 45 days. Passed House (51-Y 46-N).

The Senate amended the bill to instead make the maximum length of such suspensions 60 school days instead of 90 school days. Suspensions could exceed 60 days for certain acts described in § 16.1-260(G), such as weapon and drug offenses, assault with bodily injury and sexual assault; however, at the end of each grading period, the school must evaluate to determine if the student will be permitted to return to school before the end of the long-term suspension. Passed Senate (33-Y 7-N). The House rejected the Senate amendments (49-Y 49-N). On Senate floor to consider requesting a conference committee.

HB 1536 Public schools; student discipline.

Chief patron: Bell, Richard P.

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; student discipline. Prohibits students in preschool through grade five from being suspended or expelled except for drug offenses, firearm offenses, or certain criminal acts.

Note: Bill amended to instead limit such suspensions in preschool through third grade to no more than five days. Passed House (49-Y 47-N)

The Senate further amended the bill to limit suspensions in preschool through third grade to no more than ten days. Longer suspensions and expulsions would be permissible only for certain instances such as weapon and drug offenses, assault with bodily injury and sexual assault. Passed Senate (33-Y 7-N) The House rejected the Senate amendments (49-Y 47-N). The bill is currently in conference.

HB 1709 School boards; policies and procedures prohibiting bullying; parental notification.

Chief patron: Filler-Corn

Summary as introduced:

School boards; policies and procedures prohibiting bullying; parental notification. Requires the policies and procedures prohibiting bullying that are contained in each school board's code of student conduct to direct the school principal to notify the parent of any student victim of bullying or harassment of the status or results of any investigation of such incident of bullying or harassment no later than one week after such principal is notified of such incident.

Note: Bill amended to eliminate references to harassment and require notification within 14 days rather than one week. Passed House (99-Y 0-N). Bill was further amended by the Senate to require notification within five days. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). House rejected Senate amendments (0-Y 97-N), and the Senate has requested a conference committee.

SB 829 Alternatives to suspension; Board of Education shall establish guidelines for local school boards.

Chief patron: Wexton

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; suspensions. Directs the Board of Education to establish guidelines for alternatives to short-term and long-term suspension for consideration by local school boards.

Note: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Passed House (85-Y 13-N).

HB 1924 Public schools; suspensions.

Chief patron: Bagby

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; suspensions. Directs the Board of Education to establish guidelines for alternatives to short-term and long-term suspension for consideration by local school boards.

Note: Passed House (82-Y 12-N). Passed Senate (38-Y 2-N).

SB 995 Student discipline; long-term suspension.

Chief patron: Stanley

Summary as introduced:

Student discipline; long-term suspension. Reduces the maximum length of a long-term suspension from 364 calendar days to 45 school days. The bill prohibits a long-term suspension from extending beyond the current grading period unless aggravating circumstances exist and prohibits a long-term suspension from extending beyond the current school year.

Note: Bill amended to make the maximum length of such suspensions 60 school days instead of 90 school days. Suspensions could exceed 60 days for certain acts described in § 16.1-260(G), such as weapon and drug offenses, assault with bodily injury and sexual assault; however, at the end of each grading period, the school must evaluate to determine if the student will be permitted to return to school before the end of the long-term suspension. Passed Senate (32-Y 8-N).

Bill further amended by House to instead reduce the maximum length of such suspension to 90 school days instead of 45 school days; however, suspensions longer than 45 days would only be permissible if aggravating circumstances exist, and to provide that any length of any suspension longer than 45 days shall be re-evaluated every 45 days. Bill failed in House (39-Y 56-N).

SB 997 Public schools; student discipline.

Chief patron: Stanley

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; student discipline. Prohibits students in preschool through grade five from being suspended or expelled except for drug offenses, firearm offenses, or certain criminal acts.

Note: Bill amended to limit suspensions in preschool through third grade to no more than ten days. Longer suspensions and expulsions would be permissible only for certain instances such as weapon and drug offenses, assault with bodily injury and sexual assault. Passed Senate (34-Y 6-N).

Bill further amended by the House to instead limit suspensions in preschool through third grade to no more than five days, except for drug offenses, firearm offenses, or certain criminal acts. Bill failed in House (46-Y 50-N).

SB 1017 School attendance officer; powers and duties.

Chief patron: Barker

Summary as introduced:

School attendance officer; powers and duties. Authorizes a school attendance officer or local school division superintendent or his designee acting as an attendance officer to complete, sign, and file petitions and motions for the enforcement of certain orders entered by a juvenile and domestic relations district court. The bill also provides that a nonattorney attendance officer or local school division superintendent or his designee acting as an attendance officer performing the powers and duties of an attendance officer is not considered the practice of law.

Note: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). House subcommittee recommended laying the bill on the table.

SB 1082 School principals; incident reports.

Chief patron: Wexton

Summary as introduced:

School principals; incident reports. Eliminates the requirement that school principals report misdemeanor offenses to law enforcement. Principals would still be required to report felonious acts such as those involving assault and battery with injury, weapons, drugs and alcohol.

Note: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). House subcommittee failed to recommend reporting.

SB 1356 Informal truancy plans.

Chief patron: Locke

Summary as introduced:

Informal truancy plans. Provides that a student may have multiple discretionary diversions for truancy so long as no previous diversion occurred during the same school year. The bill extends the time frame for an informal truancy plan from 90 days to 120 days.

Note: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). House subcommittee failed to recommend reporting.

Student Health

HB 1408 Student vision screenings; requirements for certain students.

Chief patron: Ware

Summary as introduced:

Student vision screenings. Requires (i) the principal of each public elementary school to cause the vision of students in kindergarten and grade two or grade three to be screened by a qualified nonprofit vision health organization that uses a digital photoscreening method pursuant to a comprehensive vision program, unless such students are admitted for the first time to a public elementary school and have been so tested as part of the comprehensive physical examination required by law or the parents or guardians of such students object on religious grounds and the students show no obvious evidence of any defect or disease of the eyes, and (ii) the principal of each public middle school and high school to cause the vision of students in grade seven and grade 10 to be screened by a qualified nonprofit vision health organization that uses a digital photoscreening method pursuant to a comprehensive vision program, unless the parents or guardians of such students object on religious grounds and the students show no obvious evidence of any defect or disease of the eyes. The bill requires the scheduling of such vision screenings to be completed no later than the sixtieth administrative working day of the school year. The bill defines "qualified nonprofit vision health organization" and "comprehensive vision program." Under current law, the timing and frequency of such vision screenings is determined by the Board of Education pursuant to regulations, and the method and provider of such vision screenings is determined by the local school board.

Note: Bill amended to allow, but not require vision screening through digital photoscreening by a qualified nonprofit vision health organization. Bill also amended to allow other screening methods by such organizations, provided that they comply with Department of Education requirements. Such screenings also would be required to be scheduled within the first sixty days of the school year, to be administered at any time during the school year. Passed House (95-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (38-Y 2-N).

HB 1437 Public school students; sight and hearing testing, exception.

Chief patron: Head

Summary as introduced:

Sight and hearing testing of public school students; exception. Excludes from the requirement that the sight and hearing of public school students be tested any student who has any defect of vision or hearing or disease of the eyes or ears that requires the use of a corrective or supplemental device as set forth in the student's Individualized Education Program.

Note: Bill amended to ensure that the only students exempted from vision or hearing screening are those for which the screening would not identify a previously unknown condition of the eyes or ears. Passed House (99-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 1661 Administration of medications to treat adrenal crisis.

Chief patron: Greason

Summary as introduced:

Administration of medications to treat adrenal crisis. Provides that a prescriber may authorize an employee of (i) a school board, (ii) a school for students with disabilities, or (iii) an accredited private school who is trained in the administration of injected medications for the treatment of adrenal crisis resulting from a condition causing adrenal insufficiency to administer such medications to a student diagnosed with a condition causing adrenal insufficiency when the student is believed to be experiencing or about to experience an adrenal crisis pursuant to a written order or standing protocol issued within the course of the prescriber's professional practice and with the consent of the student's parents and provides that an employee of a school board, a school for students with disabilities, or an accredited private school who is trained in the administration of injected medications for the treatment of adrenal crisis resulting from a condition causing

adrenal insufficiency who administers or assists in the administration of such medications to a student diagnosed with a condition causing adrenal insufficiency when the student is believed to be experiencing or about to experience an adrenal crisis in accordance with the prescriber's instructions shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such treatment.

Note: Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

SB 1116 Public school employees, certain; assistance with student insulin pumps.

Chief patron: McPike

Summary as introduced:

Certain public school employees; assistance with student insulin pumps. Authorizes public school employees who are trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon to assist students who are diagnosed with diabetes and carry insulin pumps with the insertion or reinsertion of the insulin pump or any of its parts. The bill also provides liability protection for such employees.

Note: Bill amended to limit such authorization to school nurses and nurses aides, and to require parental consent for any such employee to provide assistance with the insertion of the pump. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Passed House (99-Y 0-N).

SB 1500 School Health Advisory Board; established, report.

Chief patron: Favola

Summary as introduced:

School Health Advisory Board. Establishes the School Health Advisory Board in the executive branch to advise the General Assembly on pending legislation concerning health policy that affects elementary and secondary schools.

Note: Bill referred to Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth.

Student Safety

HB 1392 School security officers; carrying a firearm in performance of duties.

Chief patron: Lingamfelter

Summary as introduced:

School security officers; carrying a firearm in performance of duties. Authorizes a school security officer to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties if (i) he is a retired law-enforcement officer who retired or resigned in good standing, (ii) he has met the additional training and certification requirements of the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), (iii) the local school board solicits input from the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality regarding the qualifications of the officer, and (iv) the local school board grants him the authority to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties. The bill requires DCJS to establish additional firearms training and certification requirements for school security officers who carry a firearm in the performance of their duties. Existing law requires DCJS to establish minimum training and certification requirements for school security officers.

Note: Bill amended to expand the authorization to any former law-enforcement officer who retired or resigned in good standing within the last ten years, and alters the additional training requirements to specify that training may be obtained from federal, state, or local law-enforcement agencies. Passed Senate (24-Y 16-N). Passed House (75-Y 22-N).

HB 1485 Sex offenses prohibiting proximity to children and working on school property; penalty.

Chief patron: Bell, Richard P.

Summary as introduced:

Sex offenses prohibiting proximity to children and working on school property; substantially similar offenses; penalty. Prohibits anyone who has been convicted of certain sex offenses in other states from being in or residing in proximity to schools and certain other property where children congregate or from working on school property. Currently, this prohibition only applies to those convicted of these offenses in Virginia.

Note: Bill amended to incorporate similar convictions in foreign nations. Passed House (95-Y 1-N). Bill further amended by Senate to include similar convictions within recognized Native American tribal lands. Passed Senate 40-Y 0-N. House rejected Senate amendments (0-Y 96-N), and the Senate has requested a conference committee.

Teacher Preparation, Licensure, Evaluation; Other Personnel Issues

HB 1770 Teacher licensure; career and technical education; certain local waivers.

Chief patron: Freitas

Summary as introduced:

Teacher licensure; career and technical education; certain local waivers. Permits each local school board or division superintendent to waive certain enumerated licensure requirements for any teacher seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education.

Note: Bill amended to ensure such career and technical education teachers will continue to be required to have training in child abuse recognition and intervention, first aid, CPR, and the use of an automatic defibrillator. Passed House (72-Y 26-N) Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 1829 Teacher licensure; certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Chief patron: Dudenhefer

Summary as introduced:

Teacher licensure; certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators; hands-on practice. Specifies that the certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators that is required of every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license as a teacher shall include hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Note: Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (39-Y 1-N)..

HB 2140 Teachers turnover; exit questionnaire.

Chief patron: LeMunyon

Summary as introduced:

Teacher turnover; exit questionnaire. Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in order to track and make public the rate of and reasons for teacher turnover, to develop and provide to local school divisions an exit questionnaire for teachers; require each school board to administer such questionnaire to each exiting teacher and to provide the results of each such questionnaire to the Department of Education; and report annually to the Governor, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health the rate of and reasons for teacher turnover based on the results of such questionnaires.

Note: Bill amended to instead implement a pilot program using the VDOE model exit questionnaire in five school divisions and require results to be reported annually beginning in 2018. The questionnaire would be administered to each teacher who ceases employment with a division and would ensure confidentiality. Passed House (95-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

HB 2282 Certain school board employees; training on the prevention of trafficking of children.

Chief patron: Leftwich

Summary as introduced:

Certain school board employees; training on the prevention of trafficking of children. Requires each school board to ensure that each guidance counselor and school nurse that it employs receives training on the prevention of trafficking of children using awareness and training materials provided by the Board of Education and the Department of Social Services.

Note: Passed House (95-Y 0-N). Reported from Senate Education and Health with amendment to instead require the Board of Education to develop guidelines for training school counselors, school nurses, and other relevant school staff on the prevention of trafficking of children. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). The House rejected the Senate amendments (0-Y 100-N). The bill currently in conference.

HB 2352 Teacher licensure by reciprocity; professional teacher's assessments.

Chief patron: Freitas

Summary as introduced:

Teacher licensure by reciprocity; professional teacher's assessments. Exempts from any professional teacher's assessment requirements any individual who has obtained a valid out-of-state license, with full credentials and without deficiencies, that is in force at the time the application for a Virginia license is received by the Department of Education, subject to the approval of the division superintendent or the school board in the school division in which such individual is employed.

Note: Bill amended to add a requirement for the Department to analyze and study licensure reciprocity. Passed House (68-Y 30-N). Passed Senate (36-Y 4-N).

HB 2432 Teachers and other school personnel; investigation of certain complaints, license revocation.

Chief patron: Bulova

Summary as introduced:

Licensure of school personnel; investigation of certain complaints; license revocation. Requires the Board of Education to include in its regulations governing the licensure of teachers and other school personnel procedures for the immediate and thorough investigation by the division superintendent or his designee of any complaint alleging that a license holder has engaged in conduct that may form the basis for the revocation of his license, including requirements for (i) the division superintendent to petition for the revocation of the license upon completing such investigation and finding that there is reasonable cause to believe that the license holder

has engaged in conduct that forms the basis for revocation of a license; (ii) the school board to proceed to a hearing on such petition for revocation within 90 days of the mailing of a copy of the petition to the license holder, unless the license holder requests the cancellation of his license in accordance with Board regulations; and (iii) the school board to provide a copy of the investigative file and such petition for revocation to the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the time that the hearing is scheduled. The bill clarifies that in the case of a teacher who is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect, such teacher shall be dismissed after all rights to any administrative appeal have been exhausted. Current law does not specify that such appeals are administrative in nature.

Note: This bill was developed and drafted in consultation with VDOE. Passed House (97-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N).

SB 1117 School counselors; licensure.

Chief patron: McPike

Summary as introduced:

School counselors; licensure. Requires every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement as a school counselor to complete training in the recognition of mental health disorder and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse.

Note: Passed Senate (31-Y 9-N). Passed House (98-Y 2-N).

SB 1159 Public schools; career and technical education credential.

Chief patron: Reeves

Summary as introduced:

Public schools; career and technical education credential. Provides that the career and technical education credential, when required for high school graduation, adult education, or an alternative education plan, may be satisfied with the successful completion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Under current law, the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment satisfies such credential.

Note: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Passed House (99-Y 0-N)

SB 1160 Teacher Education and Licensure, Advisory Board on; increases membership.

Chief patron: Reeves

Summary as introduced:

Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure; membership. Adds two legislative members, one of whom shall be a member of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and one of whom shall be a member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (Advisory Board). The bill provides an exception to the prohibition against service by legislators on boards within the executive branch for the Advisory Board.

Note: Amended to instead provide two delegates and one senator on the Advisory Board. Passed House (99-Y 0-N). Passed Senate (32-Y 8-N).

SB 1523 Teachers turnover; exit questionnaire.

Chief patron: Mason

Summary as introduced:

Teacher turnover; exit questionnaire. Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in order to track and make public the rate of and reasons for teacher turnover, to develop and provide to local school divisions an exit questionnaire for teachers; require each school board to administer such questionnaire to each exiting teacher and to provide the results of each such questionnaire to the Department of Education; and report annually to the Governor, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health the rate of and reasons for teacher turnover based on the results of such questionnaires.

Note: Bill amended to instead implement a pilot program using the VDOE model exit questionnaire in five school divisions and require results to be reported annually beginning in 2018. The questionnaire would be administered to each teacher who ceases employment with a division and would ensure confidentiality. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Passed House (99-Y 0-N).

SB 1583 Teacher licensure; career and technical education, certain local waivers.

Chief patron: Suetterlein

Summary as introduced:

Teacher licensure; career and technical education; certain local waivers. Permits each local school board or division superintendent to waive certain enumerated licensure requirements for any teacher seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education.

Note: Bill amended to ensure such career and technical education teachers will continue to be required to have training in child abuse recognition and intervention, first aid, CPR, and the use of an automatic defibrillator. Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N). Passed House (66-Y 29-N).

Virtual Schools, Online Learning

HB 1400 Virginia Virtual School Board; established, report.

Chief patron: Bell, Richard P.

Summary as introduced:

Virginia Virtual School established. Establishes the Board of the Virginia Virtual School (the Board) as a policy agency in the executive branch of state government for the purpose of governing the full-time virtual school programs offered to students enrolled in the Virginia Virtual School (the School). The Secretary of Education is responsible for such agency. The 14-member Board is given operational control of the School and assigned powers and duties. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the bill requires the School to be open to any school-age person in the Commonwealth and to provide an educational program meeting the Standards of Quality for grades kindergarten through 12, with a maximum enrollment of 5,000 students statewide. The bill requires the average state share of Standards of Quality per pupil funding for each enrolled student to be transferred to the School.

Note: Passed House (57-Y 40-N). Passed Senate (22-Y 18-N).

SB 1240 Virginia Virtual School established.

Chief patron: Dunnavant

Summary as introduced:

Virginia Virtual School established. Establishes the Board of the Virginia Virtual School (the Board) as a policy agency in the executive branch of state government for the purpose of governing the full-time virtual school programs offered to students enrolled in the Virginia Virtual School (the School). The Secretary of Education is responsible for such agency. The 14-member Board is given operational control of the School and assigned powers and duties. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the bill requires the School to be open to any school-age person in the Commonwealth and to provide an educational program meeting the Standards of Quality for grades kindergarten through 12, with a maximum enrollment of 5,000 students statewide. The bill requires the average state share of Standards of Quality per pupil funding for each enrolled student to be transferred to the School.

Note: Passed Senate (23-Y 17-N). Passed House (59-Y 37-N).

SB 1335 Access to electronic textbooks and adequate connectivity.

Chief patron: Surovell

Summary as introduced:

Access to electronic textbooks and adequate connectivity. Prohibits local school boards from requiring the use of any electronic textbook in any course in grades six through 12 unless the school board adopts a plan to ensure that by July 1, 2019, (i) each student enrolled in such course will have access to a personal computing device capable of supporting such textbooks and (ii) the relevant school has adequate connectivity, which the bill defines as bandwidth of at least one megabit per second per student.

Note: Bill referred to Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth.