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SENATE BILL NO. 545 Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-98.1, relating to the Extended School Year Incentive Program and Fund.

Patron—Marye

Referred to Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-98.1 as follows:

§ 22.1-98.1. Extended School Year Incentive Program and Fund.

A. From such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose and from such gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf, there is hereby established the Extended School Year Incentive Program, to be administered by the Board of Education, and a special nonreverting fund within the Department of the Treasury known as the Extended School Year Incentive Fund, hereafter referred to as the "Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller, and any moneys remaining in such Fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Interest earned on such funds shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it.

The Department of the Treasury shall administer and manage the Extended School Year Incentive Fund, subject to the authority of the Board of Education to provide for its disbursement. The Fund shall be disbursed to award incentive grants to public school divisions for the operation of schools beyond the 180-day school year required by the Standards of Accreditation.

B. The Board shall establish procedures for calculating amounts for incentive grants to school divisions. Such calculations shall reflect the number of (i) additional days of actual school operation; (ii) students served; and (iii) the number of schools per division operating on such extended basis and shall incorporate consideration of local ability to pay. The grants shall not be awarded to support summer school initiatives.

C. The Board shall develop a reporting mechanism whereby recipient school divisions shall account for the application of grant moneys awarded from the Fund. The Board may issue guidelines governing the Program as it deems necessary and appropriate.