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SENATE BILL NO. 981

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 9, 2001

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-199.4, relating to the Algebra Readiness Initiative Program and Fund.

Patrons—Rerras and Ruff; Delegates: Dudley and Wright

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-199.4 as follows:**

§ 22.1-199.4. Algebra Readiness Initiative Program and Fund.

A. To significantly increase the number of children who can successfully complete Algebra I by providing remediation and intervention designed to strengthen the foundational math knowledge and math skills of students in grades six through nine, from such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose and from such gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf, there is hereby established the Algebra Readiness Initiative Program, to be administered by the Board of Education, and a special nonreverting fund within the Department of the Treasury known as the Algebra Readiness Initiative 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 Algebra Readiness Initiative Fund, subject to the authority of the Board of Education to provide for its disbursement. The Fund shall be disbursed to public schools to provide intervention or remediation in mathematics to students in grades six through nine, with such funds as may be available, using pedagogical strategies supported by research. Such intervention and remediation may include before- and after-school programs, Saturday school, or in-school tutoring sessions, and shall address one or more grade levels. Programs also may include contributions of services, resources, materials, volunteer manpower and funds from community members and organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses and local governments.

B. The Board shall establish guidelines for the distribution of grants from the Fund. Grant amounts shall be based on the number of seventh and eighth grade students multiplied by the percentage of students in grade eight who have failed the eighth grade Standards of Learning test the previous year. Local school divisions and eligible schools may supplement grants from the Fund with local funds and private contributions and gifts, but may not support existing programs with funds granted pursuant to the Program.

C. The Board shall issue additional guidelines governing the Program as it deems necessary and appropriate, and shall include in such guidelines sample models for delivery of additional instructional assistance and effective mathematics intervention and remediation.

D. Grants from the Fund shall be issued to schools upon approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the school's plan, certified by the division superintendent and the school principal, for the use of the grant. The Superintendent may require revisions to a school's plan before issuing such approval.

E. The Department of Education may audit a school's program to ensure compliance with the school plan, the requirements of this section, and Board guidelines.

INTRODUCED

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