

# State Council of Higher Education 2002 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB663

**House of Origin** ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House** ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron** Keister

3. **Committee** Education

4. **Title** Standards of Learning test requirements for certain undergraduates.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** Standards of Learning test requirements for certain undergraduate students. Mandates, on and after July 1, 2005, the State Council of Higher Education to implement, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, a system-wide program to require that, prior to being awarded a degree from any of the Commonwealth's public institutions of higher education, all undergraduate students, whether classified as in-state or out-of-state students, who do not hold diplomas from Virginia public high schools must take and obtain satisfactory scores on such Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, as may be required by Board of Education regulations, for obtaining a standard or advanced program high school diploma from Virginia's public high schools. Prior to the implementation of this testing requirement, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Board of Education must notify affected students and will develop and distribute to all such freshman undergraduate students Standards of Learning study guides designed to facilitate the study of the relevant curricula. The board of visitors or other governing body of every educational institution must establish rules and regulations for the awarding of degrees, including the mandatory SOL testing requirements to be implemented by the State Council of Higher Education.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Undeterminable (See #8)

6a. **Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2001-02			
2002-03			
2003-04			

6b. **Revenue Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2001-02			
2002-03			
2003-04			

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** None

8. **Fiscal implications:** While it is not clear exactly how much this proposal would cost each institution of higher education, it is clear that such a requirement for SOL testing for certain undergraduates would require the institution to purchase the appropriate number of tests and

provide for the administration and grading of the tests. For institutions with a large number of affected students, the costs could be substantial.

Additionally, SCHEV and DOE would be required to notify all students who would be required to take the tests under this legislation and develop and distribute to all such freshman undergraduate students Standards of Learning study guides designed to facilitate the study of the relevant curricula. Such requirements would require expenditures for printing and postage to notify students of this requirement as well as the development and printing of study guides.

Currently there are approximately 12,000 students attending Virginia's public colleges and universities who are from either out-of-state students or who did NOT graduate from a Virginia public high school.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** State institutions of higher education, Department of Education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** None

**11. Other comments:** In approving the SOLs, the State Board of Education indicated that they were not to be used for the purposes of college admissions.

**Date:** 01/18/02/FCB

**Document:** HB663 FIS FINAL –SOLs for Undergrads

cc: Secretary of Education