

Department of Planning and Budget 2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1464

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Carrico

3. Committee Education

4. Title General educational development (GED) certificate; special diploma.

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill amends provisions addressing the general educational development examination by (i) raising the minimum testing age from 18 to 19 years of age for persons not enrolled in public school and not otherwise meeting compulsory attendance requirements; (ii) directing the Board of Education to develop, by regulation, requirements for the award of a special high school diploma to students passing the GED examination; (iii) increasing the current 30-day residency requirement, as specified in regulation, to three months, with an exception provided for persons participating in the federal Job Corps program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor or other designated initiatives; and (iv) adding an exception for persons age 16 and older who are participating in the federal Job Corps program or other designated initiative to take the GED test.

6. Minimal Fiscal Impact

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: Section 22.1-254, of the *Code of Virginia*, requires students to attend school from ages five to eighteen. Under the provisions of this bill, eighteen-year-old students would be unable to take the GED test, which would limit employment opportunities and prevent enrollment in postsecondary education as well as recruitment in the armed services until they reach nineteen years of age.

Under a contractual agreement between the Board of Education and the American Council on Education, sixteen-year-olds enrolled in alternative educational programs or the Job Corps are permitted to take the GED test. Therefore, this bill would have no impact on this population since conditions already exist for testing.

Costs will be incurred by the Department of Education related to the promulgation of regulations for the administration of the GED program. The cost of additional regulations would be minimal.

This bill could impact the reporting of average daily membership (ADM) by school divisions. ADM determines the amount of state funding received by divisions. The impact cannot be quantified at this time.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Education

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/09/03/acd

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cc: Sec retary of Education
Secretary of Finance