

2005 SESSION

INTRODUCED

058889204

HOUSE BILL NO. 1573

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled December 10, 2004

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-79.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to dress codes in public schools.*

Patrons—Albo and Athey

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-79.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-79.2. Dress in public schools; uniforms; Board of Education guidelines.

A. The Board of Education shall develop model guidelines for local school boards to utilize when establishing (i) *student dress codes designed to prohibit any apparel or style of dress that may prompt school violence or illegal gang activity* and (ii) requirements for pupils to wear uniforms.

In developing these guidelines, the Board shall consider (i) ways to promote parental and community involvement; (ii) relevant state and federal constitutional concerns, such as freedom of religion and freedom of speech; and (iii) *in the case of school uniforms*, the ability of pupils to purchase such clothing.

B. Upon approval by the Board of the model guidelines, local school boards may establish requirements, consistent with the Board's guidelines, for the students enrolled in any of their schools to wear uniforms while in attendance at such school during the regular school day. No state funds may be used for the purchase of school uniforms.

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