

Department of Planning and Budget 2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1766

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|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 Dillard

3. Committee Education

4. Title Standards of Quality; speech-language pathologists.

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill would amend Standard 2 of the Standards of Quality, Code of Virginia §22.1-253.13:2, by requiring local school boards to employ speech-language pathologists in sufficient numbers to ensure a caseload that does not exceed 60 students per position. Standard 2 of the Standards of Quality governs instructional, administrative and support personnel. Currently, a standard for speech language pathologists is not included in the Standards of Quality statute. The bill would add a maximum caseload of 60 students to the Standards of Quality.

Caseloads for speech-language pathologists are included in the Standards of Quality funding formula in the Appropriation Act (Item 146 C.5.). The appropriation act provides that an additional payment shall be disbursed to local school divisions to support the state share of funding for caseload standards for speech-language pathologists at 68 students for each year of the biennium. This caseload is also mandated by the Board of Education's Regulations Governing the Provision of Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia, 8 VAC 20-80-45 A., Appendix A., in accordance with the appropriation act.

6. Fiscal Impact (See #8.)

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 146. Current Appropriation Act language showing a caseload standard of 68 would need to be amended.

8. Fiscal implications: The estimated fiscal impact of this standard in FY 2006 is \$3,263,053. This is based on changing the standard from one pathologist per 68 students to one per 60 students. The impact would be recurring and would change as a result of the "rebasings" that occurs each biennium.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: School divisions, Board of Education, Department of Education.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/15/05 / acd

Document: H\ bos\k12 legislation\2005 session\completed bills\HB1766.doc.

cc: Secretary of Education
Secretary of Finance