

Department of Planning and Budget 2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB1262S1

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

2. Patron Potts

3. Committee Education

4. Title Creation of the Office of Learning Technology

5. Summary/Purpose: Creates the Office of Learning Technology within the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) to facilitate and coordinate the voluntary participation of public and private institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth that are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in technology-enriched learning initiatives.

The Office shall (i) facilitate the development of innovative, cost-effective, technology-enriched teaching and learning initiatives, including distance and distributed learning initiatives, to address currently served populations and underserved constituencies in the Commonwealth; (ii) seek to improve cooperation among and between the institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth; (iii) improve efficiency and expand the availability of technologically-enriched courses; and (iv) facilitate the sharing of research and experience to improve student learning.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Preliminary. See line 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 165 for the State Council of Higher Education.

8. Fiscal implications: The State Council of Higher Education estimates initial start-up costs for the new Office will require a total of \$372,100. Of this amount, \$122,100 represents the ongoing salary and benefit costs for a program director and a part-time staff position with the remaining \$250,000 for one-time program development costs. Given current staff shortages and existing workloads at SCHEV, the agency cannot absorb the additional costs associated with the proposed new office.

To fully address the goals of this legislation, the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia believes the additional \$250,000 will be sufficient for a one-time evaluation of programmatic needs and to provide seed funding for innovative and collaborative distance learning initiatives at institutions throughout Virginia.

Neither the House nor Senate budgets included any additional funding for this program. The only additional funding provided for SCHEV is to support SB1327 and HB2866 for restructuring higher education financial and administrative operations.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Public and private institutions of higher education; State Council of Higher Education

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** None.

11. **Other comments:** House Bill 2227 is identical to Senate Bill 1262.

Date: 02/18/05 rsa

cc: Secretary of Education