

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB66

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

2. Patron Whipple

3. Committee Education and Health

4. Title Reduction of state aid when length of school term below 180 days or 990 hours.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Defines “declared state of emergency” as the term is used elsewhere in the section. Additionally, the bill clarifies that the length of the school term shall be at least 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours and that school divisions may make up missed time by adding teaching days to the school calendar or extending the length of the school day. The bill (i) revises the amount of time that must be made up when a school or schools have been closed for six or more days during the school term due to severe weather conditions or other emergency situations, (ii) spells out the procedures for requesting a waiver from the Board of Education for closings resulting from a declared state of emergency, and (iii) adds a provision about school calendars and teacher contracts. Finally, the bill requires the division superintendent and chairman of the local school board to certify the total number of teaching days and hours each year as part of their annual report to the Board of Education.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: This bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact. The majority of the amendments to § 22.1-98 are technical in nature; however, there is one change that could have an impact on school divisions regarding their ability to make up time for missed school days. This legislation removes the maximum limit of days that a school division is required to make up for school closings due to severe weather conditions or other emergency situations. The current limit is 15 days but this legislation would eliminate that ceiling and replace it with “six days or more.” This change would not have any fiscal impact during most school years but it creates the potential for causing hardship on school divisions when faced with extraordinary circumstances that cause them to close school for more than 15 days during a school year. Such a situation could make it very difficult for a school division to make up the necessary time to comply with the provision, thereby forfeiting a portion of state aid for public education. This would result in a savings for the Commonwealth.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Board of Education, local school divisions.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: This bill is identical to HB 349.

Date: 1/27/06 / SHD

Document: G:\FIS\2006 Session\SB66.DOC