

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1173ER

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

2. **Patron:** Watkins

3. **Committee:** Passed both houses

4. **Title:** Open education resource centers; fund established; pilot project.

5. **Summary:** Requires the State Board for Community Colleges, in consultation with the Virginia Department of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to develop a competitive grant pilot program to provide grants to community colleges to establish open education resource centers in the Commonwealth. To qualify for a grant, community colleges shall be required to demonstrate a partnership with faculty or staff from at least one local school division and one institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. Grants would be awarded on a competitive basis with guidelines established in the bill. The bill also establishes a fund authorizing both public and private contributions. The provisions of this bill would not become effective until either an appropriation of general funds effectuating the purposes of this bill is included in a general appropriations act passed by the 2009 or 2010 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law, or funds from other private or public sources are deposited into the Open Education Resource Grant Fund by July 1, 2010.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See item 8.

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, if funding is provided; either with State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in Item 149, or the Department of Education, Item 138.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill does not include specific fiscal resources dedicated to support this proposal. According to the Joint Commission On Technology (JCOT), these would be virtual centers, at pilot community colleges. The centers would potentially provide database links (similar to the Virtual Library of Virginia, and FindIt Virginia, the database for K-12), on-line academic courses, and training modules for teachers on the development of on-line modules. It is anticipated that several not for profit organizations would be the repository for several of the databases. It is not clear if the state currently supports any of the databases through other resources listed above, or through an electronic blackboard service. At this time it is not possible to estimate the funding needs for this program.

Neither the House nor Senate included funding to support this legislation in their proposed budgets. If funding is not provided in the 2009 session, this legislation will have another opportunity for funding in the 2010 session. If not funded in the 2010 session, this legislation will not become law.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Department of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, local school divisions and community colleges receiving the grant.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** This bill was submitted on the recommendation of the Joint Commission on Technology (JCOT). Companion bill HB1940 has been enrolled.

Date: 3/4/2009 rsa

C: Secretary of Education

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