

## **Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB1266

House of Origin      X     Introduced                 Substitute                 Engrossed  
Second House                In Committee             Substitute                 Enrolled

**2. Patron:**        Vogel

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:**         **School calendar**

**5. Summary:** Makes local school boards responsible for setting the school calendar and determining the opening of the school year and eliminates the post-Labor Day opening requirement and "good cause" scenarios for which the Board of Education might grant waivers of this requirement.

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

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation grants local school divisions the authority to establish their own division specific academic calendar and the opening date of the school year. Currently, school divisions are not permitted to begin the school year prior to Labor Day unless they are granted a waiver by the Board of Education pursuant to § 22.1-79.1. For the 2008-2009 school year, seventy-two school divisions were approved for pre-Labor Day waivers. This amendment would give local school boards the ability to develop a school calendar that addresses the needs of their students and their communities. Providing the calendars adopted by school divisions still meet the minimum requirements for instructional time, the Department of Education is unable to determine costs or savings associated with the passage of this bill.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Board of Education and local school divisions.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 1/25/2009    dpbsbj

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cc: Secretary of Education