

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB304ER

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

2. Patron: O'Bannon

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Standards of Learning; alternative assessments

5. Summary: Requires an annual justification, as part of the Individual Education Program, for every student who takes the Virginia Grade Level Alternative assessment instrument in grades three through eight. Such justification shall include evidence that the student meets participation criteria defined by the Department of Education (DOE).

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

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires school divisions provide justification on an annual basis that students considered for the Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) meet the participation criteria as defined by DOE. Each Individual Education Program team would be required to review such justifications each year and make the final determination as to whether or not the VGLA is appropriate for the student. The superintendent and the school board chairman will also certify to the Board of Education, as a part of certifying compliance with the Standards of Quality, that there is a justification in the Individual Education Program for every student who takes the VGLA. DOE would include compliance information as part of the annual Board report which is already submitted to the General Assembly. It is anticipated that these new requirements will generate some additional administrative costs for both DOE and local school divisions. However, DOE anticipates such costs can be absorbed within current resources.

The enactment clause of the bill requires DOE phase out the Virginia Grade Level Alternative as soon as is feasible once an appropriate assessment for students with disabilities pursuing modified achievement standards is developed and implemented. Currently, funding is unavailable for the development, field testing, and implementation of a new assessment. However, since the bill does not require DOE to implement a new assessment immediately, no fiscal impact is anticipated at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

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