

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB715

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

2. Patron: Petersen

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: **Teacher training; civics education**

5. Summary: Requires the Board of Education (BOE) to promulgate regulations to require (i) all education preparation programs for teachers in history and social sciences, elementary education Pre-K through 6, and middle education 6 through 8 to include local government and civics instruction specific to Virginia and (ii) any teacher seeking renewal of a license with an endorsement in history and social sciences, elementary education Pre-K through 6, or middle education 6 through 8 undertake study of the structures, function, and powers of state and local government of Virginia and the importance of citizen participation in the political process in state and local government of Virginia.

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

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation requires BOE to amend its regulations to require all education preparation programs for teachers in history and social sciences, elementary education for grades Pre-K through 6, and middle school education for grades 6 through 8, to include local government and civics instruction specific to Virginia. Changes to regulations by the Board of Education have an administrative impact on the Department of Education (DOE). Proposals are researched and drafted by DOE staff and then vetted through appropriate channels for public input before being considered by BOE for approval. This legislation may generate some administrative costs for DOE. However, it is assumed such costs would be absorbed within current resources.

Furthermore, under the provisions of this bill, teachers seeking renewal of a license with an endorsement in history and social sciences, elementary education for grades Pre-K through 6, and middle school education for grades 6 through 8, would be required to “undertake study of the structures, function, and powers of state and local government of Virginia and the importance of citizen participation in the political process in state and local government of Virginia.” Currently, there are 153,997 individuals with an active teaching license in Virginia, of which 54,391 hold an elementary (K-6) endorsement, a history and social studies endorsement, or a middle education (6-8) endorsement. The licenses for these teachers will be renewed at some point every five years.

Such teachers would be permitted to meet this requirement using any of the means described in the Virginia Licensure Renewal Manual. The manual currently provides eight renewal options: college credit, professional conference, curriculum development, publication of an article, publication of a book, mentorship/supervision, educational project, or professional development activity. The state and local costs associated with each of these renewal options can vary considerably. The fiscal impact will depend on the option selected and the level of involvement by DOE. As a result, it is not possible to accurately estimate the fiscal impact to the state, local school divisions, or teachers at this time.

Additionally, if school divisions report expenses associated with this training or tuition there may be increased costs in future biennia to fund the Standards of Quality. Since the reporting of these expenses will vary by school division and actual division level data is not yet available that reflects the implementation of this requirement, a fiscal impact cannot be estimated at this time.

Lastly, discussions with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) indicate the requirements proposed in this legislation are either already covered by existing training programs or can be added to the courses taught by public institutions of higher education. Therefore, a fiscal impact to public institutions of higher education is anticipated to be minimal and can be absorbed within current resources.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Board of Education, Department of Education, State Council of Education for Virginia and public institutions of higher education.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

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