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HOUSE BILL NO. 2077

Offered January 12, 2011

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A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-19.1, 22.1-292.1, and 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to secure mandatory tests.*

Patron—Landes

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-19.1, 22.1-292.1, and 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-19.1. Action for violations related to secure mandatory tests.

A. The Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the Board of Education, may bring a cause of action in the circuit court having jurisdiction where the person resides or where the act occurred for injunctive relief, civil penalty, or both, against any person who knowingly and willfully commits any of the following acts related to secure mandatory tests required by the Board to be administered to students:

1. Permitting unauthorized access to secure test questions prior to testing;
2. Copying or reproducing all or any portion of any secure test booklet;
3. Divulging the contents of any portion of a secure test;
4. Altering test materials or examinees' responses in any way;
5. Creating or making available answer keys to secure tests;
6. Making a false certification on the test security form established by the Department of Education;

or
7. *Excluding students from testing who are required to be assessed; or*
8. Participating in, directing, aiding or abetting, or assisting in any of the acts prohibited in this section.

For the purpose of this subsection, "secure" means an item, question, or test that has not been made publicly available by the Department of Education.

B. Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or restrict the reasonable and necessary actions of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Department of Education or their agents or employees engaged in test development or selection, test form construction, standard setting, test scoring, reporting test scores, or any other related activities which, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction or Board of Education, are necessary and appropriate.

C. Any person who violates any provisions of this section may be assessed a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Furthermore, any person whose administrative or teaching license has been suspended or revoked pursuant to § 22.1-292.1 may be assessed a civil penalty for the same violation under this section and the reasonable costs of any review or investigation of a violation of test security.

All civil penalties paid to the Commonwealth pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the Literary Fund.

§ 22.1-292.1. Violations related to secure mandatory tests.

A. The Board of Education may suspend or revoke the administrative or teaching license it has issued to any person who *knowingly and willfully* commits any of the following acts ~~knowingly and willfully with the intent to compromise~~ related to secure mandatory tests administered to students as required by this title or by the Board of Education:

1. Giving unauthorized access to secure test questions;
2. Copying or reproducing all or any portion of any secure test booklet;
3. Divulging the contents of any portion of a secure test;
4. Coaching or assisting examinees during testing or altering test materials or examinees' responses in any way;
5. Making available any answer keys;
6. Failing to follow test security procedures established by the Department of Education;
7. Providing a false certification on any test security form required by the Department of Education;
8. Retaining a copy of secure test questions; ~~and~~
9. *Excluding students from testing who are required to be assessed; and*
10. Participating in, directing, aiding, assisting in, or encouraging any of the acts prohibited by this

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59 section.

60 For the purposes of this section, "secure test" means an item, question, or test that has not been
61 made publicly available by the Department of Education.

62 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit educational personnel from providing input to
63 administrators or other authorized personnel, including school board members and members of the
64 General Assembly, except when done in a manner that violates test integrity or security regarding the
65 accuracy, clarity, or propriety of test items or test administration procedures.

66 B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or restrict the reasonable and necessary
67 actions of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or the Department of
68 Education in test development or selection, test form construction, standard setting, test scoring and
69 reporting, or any other related activities which, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Public
70 Instruction or the Board of Education, are necessary and appropriate.

71 C. Any suspension or revocation imposed for the acts enumerated in this section shall be rendered
72 pursuant to Board regulations promulgated pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et
73 seq.) and § 22.1-298.1, governing the licensure of teachers.

74 § 22.1-253.13:3. Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation.

75 A. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation
76 pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), which shall include, but not be limited
77 to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs and for the
78 integration of educational technology into such instructional programs, administrative and instructional
79 staffing levels and positions, including staff positions for supporting educational technology, student
80 services, auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements
81 for graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of
82 public education in Virginia.

83 The Board shall review annually the accreditation status of all schools in the Commonwealth.

84 Each local school board shall maintain schools that are fully accredited pursuant to the standards for
85 accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. Each local school board shall review the
86 accreditation status of all schools in the local school division annually in public session. Within the time
87 specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any
88 schools within its school division that have been designated as not meeting the standards as approved by
89 the Board.

90 When the Board of Education has obtained evidence through the school academic review process that
91 the failure of schools within a division to achieve full accreditation status is related to division level
92 failure to implement the Standards of Quality, the Board may require a division level academic review.
93 After the conduct of such review and within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school
94 board shall submit for approval by the Board a corrective action plan, consistent with criteria established
95 by the Board and setting forth specific actions and a schedule designed to ensure that schools within its
96 school division achieve full accreditation status. Such corrective action plans shall be part of the relevant
97 school division's comprehensive plan pursuant to § 22.1-253.13:6.

98 With such funds as are appropriated or otherwise received for this purpose, the Board shall adopt and
99 implement an academic review process, to be conducted by the Department of Education, to assist
100 schools that are accredited with warning. The Department shall forward a report of each academic
101 review to the relevant local school board, and such school board shall report the results of such
102 academic review and the required annual progress reports in public session. The local school board shall
103 implement any actions identified through the academic review and utilize them for improvement
104 planning.

105 B. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and the Board of Education shall approve
106 criteria for determining and recognizing educational performance in the Commonwealth's public school
107 divisions and schools. Such criteria, when approved, shall become an integral part of the accreditation
108 process and shall include student outcome measurements. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall
109 annually identify to the Board those school divisions and schools that exceed or do not meet the
110 approved criteria. Such identification shall include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of public
111 education programs in the various school divisions in Virginia and recommendations to the General
112 Assembly for further enhancing student learning uniformly across the Commonwealth. In recognizing
113 educational performance in the school divisions, the Board shall include consideration of special school
114 division accomplishments, such as numbers of dual enrollments and students in Advanced Placement and
115 International Baccalaureate courses, and participation in academic year Governor's Schools.

116 The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall assist local school boards in the implementation of
117 action plans for increasing educational performance in those school divisions and schools that are
118 identified as not meeting the approved criteria. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall monitor
119 the implementation of and report to the Board of Education on the effectiveness of the corrective actions
120 taken to improve the educational performance in such school divisions and schools.

C. With such funds as are available for this purpose, the Board of Education shall prescribe assessment methods to determine the level of achievement of the Standards of Learning objectives by all students. Such assessments shall evaluate knowledge, application of knowledge, critical thinking, and skills related to the Standards of Learning being assessed. The Board shall (i) in consultation with the chairpersons of the eight regional superintendents' study groups, establish a timetable for administering the Standards of Learning assessments to ensure genuine end-of-course and end-of-grade testing and (ii) with the assistance of independent testing experts, conduct a regular analysis and validation process for these assessments.

In prescribing such Standards of Learning assessments, the Board shall provide local school boards the option of administering tests for United States History to 1877, United States History: 1877 to the Present, and Civics and Economics. The last administration of the cumulative grade eight history test will be during the 2007-2008 academic school year. Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, all school divisions shall administer the United States History to 1877, United States History: 1877 to the Present, and Civics and Economics tests. The Board shall also provide the option of industry certification and state licensure examinations as a student-selected verified credit.

The Board of Education shall make publicly available such assessments in a timely manner and as soon as practicable following the administration of such tests, so long as the release of such assessments does not compromise test security or deplete the bank of assessment questions necessary to construct subsequent tests, or limit the ability to test students on demand and provide immediate results in the web-based assessment system.

The Board shall include in the student outcome measures that are required by the Standards for Accreditation end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for various grade levels and classes, as determined by the Board, in accordance with the Standards of Learning. These Standards of Learning assessments shall include, but need not be limited to, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for English, mathematics, science, and history and social science.

In addition, to assess the educational progress of students, the Board of Education shall (i) develop appropriate assessments, which may include criterion-referenced tests and alternative assessment instruments that may be used by classroom teachers; (ii) select appropriate industry certification and state licensure examinations and (iii) prescribe and provide measures, which may include nationally normed tests to be used to identify students who score in the bottom quartile at selected grade levels. An annual justification that includes evidence that the student meets the participation criteria defined by the Virginia Department of Education shall be provided for each student considered for the Virginia Grade Level Alternative. Each Individual Education Program team shall review such justification and make the final determination as to whether or not the Virginia Grade Level Alternative is appropriate for the student. The superintendent and the school board chairman shall 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 Virginia Grade Level Alternative. Compliance with this requirement shall be monitored as a part of the special education monitoring process conducted by the Department of Education. The Board shall report to the Governor and General Assembly in its annual reports pursuant to § 22.1-18 any school division that is not in compliance with this requirement.

The Standard of Learning requirements, including all related assessments, shall be waived for any student awarded a scholarship under the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program, pursuant to § 30-231.2, who is enrolled in a preparation program for the General Education Development (GED) certificate or in an adult basic education program to obtain the high school diploma.

The Board of Education may adopt special provisions related to the administration and use of any SOL test or tests in a content area as applied to accreditation ratings for any period during which the SOL content or assessments in that area are being revised and phased in. Prior to statewide administration of such tests, the Board of Education shall provide notice to local school boards regarding such special provisions.

D. The Board of Education may pursue all available civil remedies pursuant to § 22.1-19.1 or administrative action pursuant to § 22.1-292.1 for breaches in test security and unauthorized alteration of test materials or test results.

The Board may initiate or cause to be initiated a review or investigation of any alleged breach in security, unauthorized alteration, or improper administration of tests, *including the exclusion of students from testing who are required to be assessed*, by local school board employees responsible for the distribution or administration of the tests.

Records and other information furnished to or prepared by the Board during the conduct of a review or investigation may be withheld pursuant to subdivision 12 of § 2.2-3705.3. However, this section shall not prohibit the disclosure of records to (i) a local school board or division superintendent for the purpose of permitting such board or superintendent to consider or to take personnel action with regard to

182 an employee or (ii) any requester, after the conclusion of a review or investigation, in a form that (a)
183 does not reveal the identity of any person making a complaint or supplying information to the Board on
184 a confidential basis and (b) does not compromise the security of any test mandated by the Board. Any
185 local school board or division superintendent receiving such records or other information shall, upon
186 taking personnel action against a relevant employee, place copies of such records or information relating
187 to the specific employee in such person's personnel file.

188 Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, no test or examination authorized by this section,
189 including the Standards of Learning assessments, shall be released or required to be released as
190 minimum competency tests, if, in the judgment of the Board, such release would breach the security of
191 such test or examination or deplete the bank of questions necessary to construct future secure tests.

192 E. With such funds as may be appropriated, the Board of Education may provide, through an
193 agreement with vendors having the technical capacity and expertise to provide computerized tests and
194 assessments, and test construction, analysis, and security, for (i) web-based computerized tests and
195 assessments for the evaluation of student progress during and after remediation and (ii) the development
196 of a remediation item bank directly related to the Standards of Learning.

197 F. To assess the educational progress of students as individuals and as groups, each local school
198 board shall require the use of Standards of Learning assessments and other relevant data, such as
199 industry certification and state licensure examinations, to evaluate student progress and to determine
200 educational performance. Each local school shall require the administration of appropriate assessments to
201 all students for grade levels and courses identified by the Board of Education, which may include
202 criterion-referenced tests, teacher-made tests and alternative assessment instruments and shall include the
203 Standards of Learning Assessments and the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state
204 assessment. Each school board shall analyze and report annually, in compliance with any criteria that
205 may be established by the Board of Education, the results from the Stanford Achievement Test Series,
206 Ninth Edition (Stanford Nine) assessment, if administered, industry certification examinations, and the
207 Standards of Learning Assessments to the public.

208 The Board of Education shall not require administration of the Stanford Achievement Test Series,
209 Ninth Edition (Stanford Nine) assessment, except as may be selected to facilitate compliance with the
210 requirements for home instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1.

211 The Board shall include requirements for the reporting of the Standards of Learning assessment
212 scores and averages for each year as part of the Board's requirements relating to the School Performance
213 Report Card. Such scores shall be disaggregated for each school by student subgroups on the Virginia
214 assessment program as appropriate and shall be reported to the public within three months of their
215 receipt. These reports (i) shall be posted on the portion of the Department of Education's website
216 relating to the School Performance Report Card, in a format and in a manner that allows year-to-year
217 comparisons, and (ii) may include the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state
218 assessment.

219 G. Each local school division superintendent shall regularly review the division's submission of data
220 and reports required by state and federal law and regulations to ensure that all information is accurate
221 and submitted in a timely fashion. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide a list of the
222 required reports and data to division superintendents annually. The status of compliance with this
223 requirement shall be included in the Board of Education's annual report to the Governor and the General
224 Assembly as required by § 22.1-18.