

Department of Planning and Budget 2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB967

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

2. Patron: Northam

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Family life education.

5. Summary: Requires each school division to implement the standards of learning for the family life education program promulgated by the Board of Education (BOE), or a family life education program consistent with the guidelines developed by the BOE, which shall have the goals of reducing the incidence of pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and substance abuse among teenagers. Any curricula or materials used must be evidence-based and supported by peer reviewed medical research.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation would require each school division to implement the standards of learning for a family life education program consistent with the guidelines developed by the BOE. The goals of the program will be to reduce the incidence of pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and substance abuse among teenagers. The bill also requires the curriculum for such a program must be “medically accurate” and “evidence-based.”

Pursuant to §22.1-207.1, Code of Virginia, the Board of Education is already required to develop Standards of Learning and curriculum guidelines for a comprehensive, sequential family life education curriculum in grades K through 12. Moreover, the Virginia Board of Education’s Family Life Education guidelines state that such a program must be comprehensive and sequential and include, among other things, (1) human reproduction and contraception, including the benefits of adoption as a positive choice in the event of an unwanted pregnancy, (2) prevention and effects of sexually transmitted diseases, and (3) substance abuse.

Currently, Virginia’s family life education program is funded through a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC requires that information provided in the program must be medically accurate. The Department of Education (DOE) provides training for the majority of family life education providers and every effort is made

to ensure the information presented is medically accurate. Nonetheless, there are some school divisions in the Commonwealth that do not receive family life education training from DOE. Consequently, the Department cannot be certain that the family life education provided in those divisions would meet the provisions of this bill.

It is anticipated this legislation will not have a state fiscal impact because the current standards of learning for family life education and related BOE guidelines already meet the provisions of this bill. Moreover, DOE already has a process to ensure the information provided to school divisions for family life education is medically accurate. However, there could be a local fiscal impact for school divisions that do not currently receive family life education training from DOE. These school divisions may incur some additional administrative costs to conform to the provisions of this legislation. At this time, the number of programs impacted by this legislation is unknown; however, it is assumed any associated local costs could be absorbed with current resources.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

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