

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact
2012 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB 400 **Patron:** Hope **Date:** January 18, 2012

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

I. Bill Summary

Requires local school boards to adopt and implement policies that would ensure parents may act as an observer in the child's classroom.

II. Fiscal Impact Analysis

The Commission on Local Government did not solicit data from localities in the assessment of this bill; however, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents assisted the Commission in obtaining information from local school divisions.

HB 400 would require local school boards to develop a policy to ensure that the parent or legal guardian of a student may act as an observer in the classroom. Development of the policy would require staff time and some administrative cost. The use of staff could also present the schools with opportunity costs. Schools could see increased expenditures for the implementation of such policies, but they should be minimal. Estimates for these costs cannot be made at this time.

School districts with a policy already in place would not see an increase in costs.

Orange County Public Schools indicated that the true fiscal impact of the bill cannot be known without having an idea of whether the frequency with which parents currently visit classrooms would increase as a result of the bill.

Chesapeake Public Schools stated that they would not experience additional costs because the practice is already in place.

III. Conclusion

It would appear that local school districts would experience some small initial costs to design the policy. Depending upon the staff time required for development of the policy, opportunity costs may also apply. School districts should experience little (if any) costs after implementation.

