

Commission on Local Government

REVISED Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact
2012 General Assembly Session

Bill: SB 167 Patron: Petersen Date: January 30, 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 the school principal or his designee to notify the parents of any student who violates a school board policy when such violation could result in the student's expulsion.

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.

This bill requires a school principal to notify parents or guardians of students who commit a violation that could result in expulsion.

Localities should not experience any initial costs as a result of this bill. A school division that does not already have this policy in place could experience minor administrative opportunity costs.

Orange County Public Schools (OCSS) expressed concern over the wording of the bill as it pertains to a violation that “could result” in a student’s expulsion. OCSS indicated that, among the very rare investigations that result in expulsion, many may begin by focusing on an infraction that would not result in expulsion. OCSS is unsure about what point in the investigation they would be required to contact the parents and advise of the possibility of expulsion. They are concerned that, in order to comply with the provisions of the bill, they would need to assume the possibility of expulsion for any disciplinary matter. OCSS further believes that the provisions of SB 167 will hinder their efforts to ensure the safety and security of their students and will contribute greatly to the potential for litigation at the local school board level.

Chesapeake Public Schools reported that a cost would be difficult to estimate. They believe that the bill would impede the operation of the administrative staff.

III. Conclusion

SB 167 will not affect public school divisions that already have such a policy in place. In school divisions without such a policy in place, the frequency with which a school division discovers violations that could result in expulsion will be the primary variable in determining the administrative impact that the bill will have on the school division.