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SENATE BILL NO. 325

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 6, 2014

A BILL to provide two-year waivers from third grade Standards of Learning assessments in certain cases.

Patron—Miller

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board of Education shall grant a two-year waiver from the science or history and social science Standards of Learning assessment requirement, or both, for third grade students to a public elementary school that had an adjusted pass rate of less than 75 percent on the third grade Standards of Learning reading assessment administered during the previous school year and that: (i) applies for a waiver in the form and by the deadline prescribed by the Board pursuant to regulation; (ii) develops a system to monitor the academic progress of all third grade students in the subject area in which the assessment waiver is sought, which shall include the administration of a summative assessment or another divisionwide assessment to third grade students in that subject area; (iii) commits to publishing the adjusted pass rate of third grade students on such summative assessment or other divisionwide assessment once the results are available; (iv) commits to providing at least 30 minutes of instruction per day to third grade students in the subject area in which the assessment waiver is sought; and (v) in the case of a public elementary school that had an adjusted pass rate of less than 50 percent on the third grade Standards of Learning reading assessment administered during the previous school year, hires a full-time reading specialist or funds other initiatives to work with the third grade students and teachers in the school to improve reading scores.

The Board of Education shall consider applications for waivers and grant waivers based on the criteria listed in clauses (i) through (v) from the third grade Standards of Learning assessment in science or history and social science or both in advance of the 2014-2015 school year and based on the school's adjusted pass rate on the third grade Standards of Learning reading assessment administered during the 2012-2013 school year.

2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2016.

INTRODUCED

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