

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1115

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

**2. Patron:** Greason

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:** Virtual education; Virtual Virginia and multidivision online providers.

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would permit the Department of Education (DOE) to contract with one or more local schools boards that have created online courses to make such courses available to other school divisions through the Virtual Virginia Program. School divisions that make online courses available to other school divisions through Virtual Virginia may charge a per-course or per-student fee to school divisions to defray the costs; DOE would approve any such fee schedule. Currently, Virtual Virginia does not charge tuition for Virginia public school students who take non-advanced placement (AP) courses.

The bill would also establish the Virtual Learning Advisory Committee, which would advise DOE on (i) online courses, in-service training, and digital instructional resources that school divisions need to meet the Commonwealth's graduation requirements and (ii) strategic planning to expand blended and online learning opportunities in Virginia's public schools, including cost-effective access to high-need and low-demand courses, training, content, and digital resources.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** None.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The bill would potentially expand the number of courses offered through DOE's Virtual Virginia Program. There could be a staffing impact on the DOE and/or Virtual Virginia, depending on the course approval process. In addition, DOE may incur increased Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) charges as a result of increased data hosting related to cataloging online courses. The bill authorizes DOE to charge a fee not to exceed the costs required to ensure proper evaluation and approval of the online courses. The fees should provide sufficient revenue to defray the costs associated with providing the online courses. Any costs associated with the advisory committee cannot be determined at this time.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Education, local school divisions

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/14/2014 dpb/smc

**Document:** G:\GA\FIS 2014\HB1115H1.doc