

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2015 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB 2320

**House of Origin**    ☐ Introduced    ☒ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Delegate Cline

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:** Establish a cooperative degree program

- 5. Summary:** This amended bill requires the Secretary of Education and the Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), in consultation with Virginia's public and private two-year and four-year non-profit institutions of higher education, to develop a plan to establish and advertise a cooperative degree program for the Commonwealth. Under such a program, any undergraduate student enrolled at any of Virginia's public or private non-profit institutions of higher education would be able to complete, through the use of online courses offered by the institutions, the course credit requirements to receive a degree at a tuition cost of no greater than \$4,000 per academic year.

By October 1, 2016, the Secretary and the Director of SCHEV will report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health regarding the progress toward developing a cooperative degree program plan.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Section 8)

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** As currently written, it is anticipated that the program planning proposed in this legislation would not have a fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. Any costs resulting from the collaborative efforts associated with developing a cooperative degree program would be borne by the Secretary of Education's Office, SCHEV, and the participating institutions. Until the planning is completed, it is unknown whether a tuition cost of \$4,000 per academic year would be sufficient to cover the costs associated with providing a cooperative degree program.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia's public and private non-profit institutions of higher education, Education Secretariat, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, House Committee on Appropriations, House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Finance, and Senate Committee on Education and Health

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 02/03/15 sas

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c: Secretary of Education