

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB279

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Wexton

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Certain school divisions; plan to fund and phase in full-day kindergarten.

5. **Summary:** Requires each local school board that does not offer a full-day kindergarten program for each kindergarten student in the school division to develop a plan to fund and phase in such program over the course of five school years, including benchmarks for progress at the two-, three-, and four-school year intervals, and submit the plan to the General Assembly in advance of the 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation requires local school boards to develop a plan to fund and phase in full-day kindergarten over the course of five school years and to submit this plan to the General Assembly. These plans will not impact state finances.

If the affected school divisions implement full-day kindergarten, there would be no state fiscal impact. Currently, as long as a school division's kindergarten pupil/teacher ratio is less than 30 to one, a student attending either a half-day kindergarten program or a full-day kindergarten program is counted as 1.00 in the division's average daily membership (ADM) count. Per § 22.1-253.13:2, Code of Virginia, school divisions offering half-day kindergarten with pupil/teacher ratios that exceed 30 to one shall adjust their kindergarten ADM to reflect 85 percent of the total kindergarten ADM; however, currently there are not any divisions whose ADM values are adjusted under this provision. A requirement that all divisions offer only full-day kindergarten would not affect the funding paid from the state to local school divisions based on ADM. For the 2015-2016 school year, Chesapeake, Loudoun, and Virginia Beach are the only school divisions with significant numbers of students in half-day kindergarten programs.

If the affected school divisions implement full-day kindergarten, divisions may need to provide additional resources, hire additional staff, or add classroom space in order to accommodate full-day kindergarten versus half-day kindergarten. The actual fiscal impact would vary by locality and cannot be determined at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB 798 and HB 457.