

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB321

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Barker

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Public schools; kindergarten instructional time.

5. **Summary:** Directs the Board of Education to promulgate regulations by July 1, 2018, establishing standards for accreditation that include a requirement that the standard school day for students in kindergarten average at least 5.5 instructional hours in order to qualify for full accreditation. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2018.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** There is no anticipated state fiscal impact as a result of this bill. 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:** None.