

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1278

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

2. **Patron:** LaRock

3. **Committee:** Education

4. **Title:** School Divisions of Innovation; performance-based assessments.

5. **Summary:** Provides that a local school board applying for its school division to be designated as a School Division of Innovation may apply to the Board of Education (Board) to replace certain Standards of Learning assessments with performance-based assessments. The bill requires the Board to determine if the local school board has the capacity to administer and score performance-based assessments and provides criteria for such determination. Under the bill, any proposed performance-based assessment is required to be an adequate replacement of the relevant Standards of Learning assessment by requiring that students demonstrate the knowledge and skills required by the relevant Standards of Learning and one or more of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, or citizenship. The standards of learning assessments eligible for replacement are (i) Virginia Studies, (ii) Civics and Economics, (iii) elementary school science, and (iv) middle school science. The bill requires the Board to promulgate any necessary regulations and to submit to the U.S. Department of Education any necessary amendments to its consolidated State plan.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 128.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The demand for performance-based assessments in School Divisions of Innovation is indeterminate. If demand is significant, the Department of Education (DOE) will require a full-time-equivalent position to manage this initiative at an estimated cost of \$127,200 per year for salary, benefits, and related expenses. If demand is not significant, DOE likely can support this initiative with a wage position estimated at \$55,000 per year.

Any cost to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. Other Comments: This bill allows for School Divisions of Innovation to replace the Standards of Learning assessments for elementary school science and middle school science with a performance-based assessment if such replacement is permitted by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, and the Board of Education obtains any necessary approval from the U.S. Department of Education. The Virginia Department of Education notes that federal law requires students to be assessed in science once during elementary school, once during middle school, and once during high school. Federal law also requires that all students are administered the same assessment except for students with cognitive disabilities, who may take alternative assessments.

This bill is identical to HB652, SB302, and SB437.