

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1504

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

2. **Patron:** Cline

3. **Committee:** Appropriations

4. **Title:** Virtual Virginia; enrollment.

5. **Summary:** Requires enrollment in the Virtual Virginia online learning program during the school year to be open, on a space-available basis and free of charge, to each public high school student in the Commonwealth and each high school student in the Commonwealth who receives home instruction. Directs that no student who receives home instruction and is enrolled in Virtual Virginia shall be considered to be a public school student in the local school division or be required to enroll in the local school division full time.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 136 language amendment.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Education (DOE) currently provides access to Virtual Virginia free of charge to public school students. The agency does collect tuition revenue from students receiving home instruction who are enrolled directly in the Virtual Virginia online learning program. These revenues help to offset costs associated with the program. In FY 2017, these revenues totaled \$12,475. Under the provisions of this bill, DOE would no longer be permitted to collect these revenues. DOE anticipates that it can absorb the loss of revenues resulting from this bill.

This bill directs that no student who receives home instruction and is enrolled in Virtual Virginia shall be considered to be a public school student in the local school division or be required to enroll in the local school division full time. Current budget language states that students who are receiving home instruction and who are enrolled in a public school on less than a full-time basis shall be counted in the funded fall membership and March 31 average daily membership (ADM) of the responsible school division. Current budget language may need to be modified if the intent of this bill is to exclude such students from ADM.

Under current regulations, a home school student could enroll in Virtual Virginia through his local school division. Students enrolled through their local school division would not pay tuition, but they would be included in the ADM count of their local school division, which would increase the state cost to support those students under Direct Aid to Public Education.

Local school divisions would have to provide the local share of any additional state funds based on each division's local composite index. Any actual state or local cost to support these students in ADM is indeterminate at this time.

Additionally, if a significant number of home school students enroll in the Virtual Virginia online learning program as a result of this legislation, the additional enrollment could increase DOE's cost to support the Virtual Virginia online learning program. Any actual cost is indeterminate at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB521.