

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB336

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Cole

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Students with blindness or visual impairment.

5. Summary: Makes several changes relating to the provisions for special education programs for students with blindness or visual impairment, including (i) requiring each local school board to provide instruction in Braille and the use of Braille for such students unless the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines, after a critical assessment of the student, that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate to the student's educational needs and (ii) requiring a critical assessment to be administered to each student with blindness or visual impairment triannually and when there is a significant change in the student's vision. The bill defines "critical assessment" as an assessment of a student with blindness or visual impairment conducted by a licensed Teacher of the Visually Impaired that includes (a) a functional vision assessment conducted in an educational setting; (b) an assessment of learning media that includes an assessment of reading media that is designed for the purposes and population for which it is intended, is administered in the student's native language and in accordance with any instructions, and contains appropriate objective components such as font size, sustained reading speed, and fluency; (c) consideration of the student's current reading comprehension and writing skills; (d) consideration of the student's current and future needs; and (e) consideration of technology needs and support.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that the Board of Education, the Department of Education, and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired can absorb any costs resulting from the provisions of this bill.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind currently meets all requirements proposed by this legislation and, therefore, should not experience any additional costs.

Any cost to local school divisions is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Board of Education, Department of Education, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, Virginia institutions of higher education, local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None