

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB521

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

2. Patron: Bell, Robert B.

3. Committee: Education

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.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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.

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 average daily membership (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 HB1504.