

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB969

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

**2. Patron:** Newman

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:** Requiring the Board of Education to provide for a verified credit in history and social science in high school.

**5. Summary:** Directs the Board of Education, in establishing graduation requirements, to require students to earn one verified credit in history and social science. Such verified credit shall be earned only by (i) the successful completion of a Board-developed end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment; (ii) achievement of a passing score on a Board-approved standardized test administered on a statewide, multistate, or international basis that measures content that incorporates or exceeds the Standards of Learning content in the course for which the verified credit is given; or (iii) achievement of criteria for the receipt of a locally awarded verified credit from the local school board in accordance with criteria established in Board guidelines when the student has not passed a corresponding Standards of Learning assessment. Such end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment shall not be a performance-based assessment.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 130.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill eliminates the option for students to earn a verified credit in history and social science by completing a performance-based assessment. As such, the provision to earn a verified credit by successfully completing a Board of Education-developed end-of-course (EOC) Standards of Learning (SOL) test will require the Department of Education (DOE) to develop tests based on the revised 2015 history SOL content. DOE estimates a state cost of \$952,000 in FY 2019 and \$1.2 million in FY 2020 to develop these tests. The following information supports these estimates.

There are four EOC SOL history tests: World History to 1500, World History from 1500 to the Present, World Geography, and Virginia & United States History. The EOC tests currently available measure the old history SOL content adopted by the Board in 2008. The Board adopted new history SOL content in 2015. Typically, the Board and DOE would have implemented tests measuring the new content in school year 2017-2018. However, based on

the Board's movement to use local performance assessments for verified credits in history, tests measuring the new history content have not been developed.

The fiscal impact to develop new tests measuring the 2015 history SOL content varies per test depending on how much the SOL content changed from 2008 to 2015. Test development costs include activities such as new test item development, field-testing, item and data review by committees of teachers, and form development including online, braille, and large print test forms. As such, this work will occur over a two-year timeframe, with the first year of implementation in FY 2020 (school year 2019-2020). Until that time, the Board and DOE will meet the provisions of this bill by administering the EOC SOL history tests that measure 2008 SOL content.

#### Fiscal Impact for Tests with Significant Changes in Content

The World History to 1500 and the Virginia and US History SOL had significant changes from 2008 to 2015. For these tests, DOE estimates the following costs to develop tests that measure the 2015 SOL content.

EOC SOL History Test	FY 2019	FY 2020
World History to 1500	\$ 340,000	\$ 330,000
Virginia and US History	\$ 340,000	\$ 330,000

#### Fiscal Impact for Tests with Minor Changes in Content

The World History from 1500 to the Present and the World Geography SOL had minor changes from 2008 to 2015. For these tests, DOE estimates the following costs to develop tests that measure the 2015 SOL content.

EOC SOL History Test	FY 2019	FY 2020
World History from 1500 to the Present	\$ 136,000	\$ 270,000
World Geography	\$ 136,000	\$ 270,000

There is no state fiscal impact to continue administering the EOC SOL history tests that measure the 2008 SOL content; however, this would have an instructional impact for school divisions, and students would be tested on out-of-date standards.

This bill also allows a student to earn one verified credit in history and social science by passing a Board-approved standardized test administered on a statewide, multistate, or international basis, or achieving criteria for the receipt of a locally awarded verified credit from the local school board in accordance with criteria established in Board guidelines when the student has not passed a corresponding SOL test. DOE anticipates that the agency can absorb costs related to these provisions.

Any fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None