

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1986

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

2. Patron: Bell

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Children in residence or custody; participation in educational programs.

5. Summary: This bill requires that any child who is admitted to a state facility for children and adolescents operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for inpatient treatment shall be permitted to participate in any education and training program offered by the facility unless such child has been excused from school attendance due to a bona fide religious training or belief.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No fiscal impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: Full-day educational services are offered to all children admitted to the state-operated Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA), including classes comparable to the student's schedule at his/her home school. Under current regulations, children who have been admitted to inpatient facilities must have written permission from his or her parent or legal guardian to be enrolled in an educational program provided by the facility. Written permission can be difficult to obtain given geographical and/or other barriers; only half of the children in the facility at any given time have received the required parental permission. The substitute legislation removes that requirement at CCCA, making it easier for children admitted to the facility to continue their education uninterrupted while receiving treatment.

Educational staff at CCCA are employees of Staunton City Schools with program oversight by the Virginia Department of Education as a State Operated Program. Because the program is funded based on expected admissions, there is no projected cost to this legislation.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Education.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.