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HOUSE BILL NO. 836

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-299.8, relating to the Department of Education; microcredentials; standards.*

Patron—Carroll Foy

Referred to Committee on Education**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-299.8 as follows:****§ 22.1-299.8. Microcredentials; standards.**

The Department of Education shall develop and adopt standards for microcredentials earned by public school teachers in the Commonwealth, including microcredentials used toward add-on endorsements, initial licensure, renewal of licensure, and professional development points in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, that align with nationally-accepted standards for microcredentials, such as those utilized by the nonprofit organization Digital Promise. Such standards shall include (i) educator microcredentials focused on discrete competencies based upon relevant, peer-reviewed research in the specific domain or discipline; (ii) educator microcredentials that rely upon demonstrable evidence from the submission of artifacts, such as student projects and teacher lesson plans, that are then objectively scored against existing rubrics; and (iii) educator microcredentials that focus on interrelated competencies leading to logical teacher professional development pathways and stacks of educator microcredentials. Any entity that issues microcredentials to public school teachers in the Commonwealth shall comply with such standards.

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