

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB837

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: Carroll Foy

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Board of Education; school boards; dress or grooming codes.

5. Summary: Requires the Board of Education to include in its guidelines and model policies for codes of student conduct (i) standards for reducing bias and harassment in the enforcement of any code of student conduct and (ii) standards for dress or grooming codes, which the bill defines as any practice, policy, or portion of a code of student conduct adopted by a school board that governs or restricts the attire of any enrolled student. The bill permits any school board to include in its code of student conduct a dress or grooming code. The bill prohibits any school board that does not include in its code of student conduct a dress or grooming code from subjecting a student to discipline for reasons typically assigned to a dress or grooming code. The bill requires any dress or grooming code included in a school board's code of student conduct or otherwise adopted by a schoolboard to (a) permit any student to wear any religiously, ethnically, or culturally specific or significant head covering or hairstyle, including hijabs, yarmulkes, headwraps, braids, locs, and cornrows; (b) maintain gender neutrality by subjecting any student to the same set of rules and standards regardless of gender; (c) not have a disparate impact on students of a particular gender; (d) be clear, specific, and objective and avoid any subjective term or standard such as "distracting," "provocative," or "inappropriate"; (e) prohibit any schoolboard employee from enforcing the dress or grooming code by direct physical contact with a student or a student's attire; and (f) prohibit any school board employee from requiring a student to undress in front of any other individual, including the enforcing school board employee, to comply with the dress or grooming code.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: Any administrative costs associated with implementation of this bill's provisions can be absorbed within the Virginia Department of Education's existing budget. Any fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: Yes. Line 105, after "code of student" insert "conduct"

11. Other Comments: None