

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB142

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Dunnivant

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Virtual Virginia; availability to all public schools.

5. **Summary:** Requires that the Virtual Virginia Program, the statewide electronic classroom established by the Department of Education, be made available to all public schools. Currently, the program is available only to high schools. The bill requires the Department to utilize a learning management system for the purposes of implementing Virtual Virginia. The bill also authorizes the Department to charge a per-student fee to school divisions for each student enrolled in a full-time Virtual Virginia program beyond an initial allotment of 15 such students per school division and prohibits the Department from limiting the total number of such students by school division. The bill requires the Department to annually report on the Virtual Virginia Program to the General Assembly.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Education (DOE) does not anticipate an immediate state general fund impact from the provisions of this bill. However, if the Virtual Virginia program expands significantly as a result of this legislation and nongeneral fund revenues are not sufficient to support program expansion, additional general fund appropriation may be necessary. Any actual state general fund cost to support such expansion is indeterminate at this time.

The bill authorizes DOE to charge a per-course enrollment fee to school divisions for each student enrolled in a Virtual Virginia course beyond an initial allotment of 15 such students per school division. This fee structure models current practice, and therefore, there is no anticipated state fiscal impact from this provision. The bill also requires Virtual Virginia programming to be made available to every public school in Virginia, whereas currently, Virtual Virginia programming is available only to high schools. As the program expands, DOE anticipates that the agency can incorporate the cost of educating additional students into the fee structure, which will generate additional nongeneral fund revenues to support the expanded programming.

With a substantial expansion of the program to all schools statewide, DOE likely will need additional agency staff to manage the expanded program. The agency anticipates that the cost to support such staff could be incorporated into the fee structure and supported by nongeneral fund revenues.

The bill also requires DOE to utilize a learning management system (LMS) for the purposes of implementing Virtual Virginia. HB/SB 30, 2020 General Assembly Session, includes \$7.1 million in FY 2021 and \$6.1 million in FY 2022 for DOE to develop a LMS, which should satisfy this provision of the bill.

Any fiscal impact to local school divisions 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: None