

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1433

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

2. Patron: Chase

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Public education; voucher program; emergency.

5. Summary: Provides that, if a school operates a reduced schedule and the school offers online or virtual learning as a substitute for in-person attendance, it shall deposit a portion of unused funds resulting from the reduced schedule in a voucher account for each student, for use on programs operated by the school division or other educational options, whether public, private, or parochial.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 143.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill imparts several new responsibilities on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). These include creating an application, notifying parents, adopting policies and procedures for the program, and administration and enforcement of the program. VDOE would need to collect and review quarterly expense reports, contract with a scholarship foundation or qualified institution to manage the accounts, and manage an appeals process. VDOE estimates that \$50,000 in startup funds would be required to develop the program in FY2021. VDOE would also need to hire one additional staff member to administer the program, with an annual cost of \$131,997.

Local school divisions may experience increased administrative costs. Any actual fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: No