VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2024 SESSION

CHAPTER 410

An Act to direct the Secretary of Education to convene a work group to review and develop a work plan related to the Virginia Longitudinal Data System and the Virginia Workforce Data Trust; report.

[H 1083]

Approved April 4, 2024

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. *§ 1. The Secretary of Education (the Secretary) shall convene a work group to review the current capabilities and future needs of the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (the System) and the Virginia Workforce Data Trust (the Trust) (collectively, the Databases) and, based on the results of such review, develop a work plan for improving the System. The goal of such work shall be to provide a best-in-class data analytics platform and to support evidence-based research and data-informed decision making by policy makers in the Commonwealth through the maintenance of datasets and the creation of public-facing dashboards regarding education, labor, and the workforce. The work group shall include a representative from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE), the Secretary of Labor, each of the participating agencies in the System, the Chief Data Officer of the Commonwealth, and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations or their designees.*

The work group's review shall consider a consolidation of or other improvements to the System and the Trust, including (i) identification of the appropriate entity or entities to host the Databases and the associated upfront and ongoing costs; (ii) the identification of any technology upgrades required for interoperability and modernization; (iii) a plan for the governance of data sharing among partner entities; (iv) opportunities and challenges related to accessing the System and Trust on the network of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA); (v) best practices related to data privacy and data integrity; and (vi) any other issues identified by the work group as relevant to the review.

Based upon the results of the review and the identified capabilities and needs of the System, and consistent with the goal of the work, the work group shall develop either a work plan for the proposed consolidation of the Databases or for improved support of the System.

Such work plan shall include recommendations regarding (a) a projected timeline for completing such consolidation or improved support; (b) the funds, staffing, and resources necessary to fully administer and maintain the consolidation or improved support; (c) a formal governance structure for the Databases; and (d) the appropriate entity to lead the implementation of the work plan.

SCHEV, VOEE, the Department of Labor, VITA, and all other state entities shall cooperate upon request with the Secretary in executing the provisions of this act.

The Secretary shall deliver a report that includes a summary of the review and the proposed work plan by November 1, 2024, to the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations.