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HOUSE BILL NO. 1726

Offered January 13, 1999

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-303 of the Code of Virginia, relating to evaluations of certain teachers.

Patrons—Hull and Dillard

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-303 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-303. Probationary terms of service for teachers.

A. A probationary term of service for three years in the same school division shall be required before a teacher is issued a continuing contract. Once a continuing contract status has been attained in a school division in the Commonwealth, another probationary period need not be served in any other school division unless such probationary period, not to exceed one year, is made a part of the contract of employment. Further, when a teacher has attained continuing contract status in a school division in the Commonwealth, and separates from and returns to teaching service in a school division in Virginia by the beginning of the third year, such teacher shall be required to serve a probationary period not to exceed one year, if made a part of the contract for employment.

For the purpose of calculating the three years of service required to attain continuing contract status, at least 160 contractual teaching days during the school year shall be deemed the equivalent of one year in the first year of service by a teacher.

B. Local school boards shall require the annual evaluation of teachers serving probationary terms of service. Such evaluations shall include performance criteria such as, but not limited to, teaching methodology, classroom management, and subject matter knowledge. A school board may use the same or similar criteria for evaluating a teacher awarded continuing contract status.