

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2002 Fiscal Impact Statement – Enrolled Bill**

**1. Bill Number** SB609

**House of Origin**    ☐ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☒ Enrolled

**2. Patron** Houck

**3. Committee** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title** Certain guidelines for verified units of credit.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill directs the Board of Education to develop guidelines for local school boards to award verified units of credit for a standard diploma for "transition" students: students entering the ninth grade in the 2000, 2001, and 2002 school years using criteria different from the current Standards of Accreditation diploma requirements. The guidelines address students in these classes who passed the relevant coursework and who meets such additional criteria as the Board shall establish for the award of such verified units, which may include, but shall not be limited to, performance on Standards of Learning assessments or other tests, including subsequent administrations of such assessments or tests; attendance and conduct requirements, and participation in remediation programs.

The guidelines are applicable only to the award of the four student-selected verified units of credit required for a standard diploma pursuant to the Standards of Accreditation (SOA) (8 VAC 20-131-50B). Students must still learn the two verified units of credit in English for a standard diploma as provided in the Standards of Accreditation. The guidelines issued by the Board shall not be subject to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) and apply, retroactively and prospectively, to students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2000, 2001, and 2002.

**6. Fiscal Impact:** Final, (See 8.)

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** This bill requires students to earn standard credits for classroom work and verified credits for performance on tests approved by the Board of Education to receive a standard or advanced studies diploma. When awarding such credits, the Board must establish a formula that recognizes that a student may earn verified credit based upon test performance in combination with the student's end-of-course grade. This formula would apply to cases where the student has not taken the Standards of Learning assessment and has scored within the established margin of error. The formula would be applicable to students enrolled in grades six through nine in 2001-2002.

In order to provide for a methodology to award verified units of credit, the Board would be required to amend its Standards of Accreditation. Costs would be incurred on behalf of the

Board. Public hearings (estimated at \$500 per hearing) would be required and staff effort would be involved. The staff costs would be dependent on the amount of effort required to support the Board's actions. The Department of Education could, however, absorb the costs within existing resources. e

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Board of Education, Department of Education, school divisions

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

**Date:** 03/20/02/acd

**Document:** H: \BOS\K12Legislation \2002Session \CompletedBills \SB609ER.doc

cc: Secretary of Education  
Secretary of Finance