

**State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)  
2003 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number SB829 Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute**

House of Origin	Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Marsh

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:** Cultural diversity policies

**5. Summary/Purpose:** The substitute version of the bill that the Board of Education shall promote the knowledge and appreciation of diverse racial and ethnic cultures, and language minority populations, particularly such cultures and populations represented in the public schools of the Commonwealth. The Board shall establish guidelines to assist local school boards in implementing cultural diversity policies pursuant to § [22.1-86.2](#). The Board shall identify best practices within and outside of the Commonwealth. Each school board shall promote the knowledge and appreciation of diverse racial and ethnic cultures, and language minority populations in the public schools. A school board shall establish cultural diversity policies that are consistent with guidelines established by the Board of Education. The boards of visitors of each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth shall submit an equal education opportunity plan that includes, at a minimum, the institution's objectives, strategy, and initiatives to improve diversity among students, faculty, and administrative and support staff. The plans shall be submitted to the Governor, General Assembly and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) by November 1 each year. The State Board for Community Colleges shall submit an equal education opportunity plan for the Virginia Community College System that includes, at a minimum, the Board's objectives, strategy, and initiatives to improve diversity among students, faculty, and administrative and support staff throughout the System. The plan shall be submitted to the Governor, General Assembly and SCHEV. The substitute includes a sunset clause that ends the required submission of plans by the boards of visitors after July 1, 2008. (Note: Remaining responses are related only to the higher education portion of this legislation.)

**6. Fiscal Impact:** See number 8

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal implications:** Assuming the public four-year colleges would simply submit existing plans, no fiscal impact is anticipated for SCHEV or the institutions.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** The Board of Education, the State Board for Community Colleges, local school boards and the 15 public four-year college and university Board of Visitors, the Governor and General Assembly and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** None.

**11. Other comments:** Public institutions of higher education already have in place policies and procedures to ensure culturally sensitive and tolerant environments among students and staff. The legislation would simply require that each public college and university submit such plan to SCHEV, the Governor and General Assembly.

NOTE: The Virginia Department of Education and the State Board for Community Colleges should also be contacted in order to determine the impact on their agencies and the K-12 schools and community colleges in Virginia.

**Date:** 01/31/03

**Document:** FIS – SBS2829 – Cultural Diversity Policies (FINAL)

cc: Secretary of Education