

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB48

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Whipple

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: School teachers; school boards to ensure that all are provided planning time.

5. Summary: The amended bill requires school boards to ensure that all school teachers are provided at least an average of thirty minutes per day of unencumbered, self-directed planning time.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill as proposed with amendments, would amend and reenact § 22.1-291.1 of the Code of Virginia to amend language regarding planning time for elementary school teachers, and provide an average of 30 minutes per day of planning time per week for elementary teachers.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) prepared a fiscal impact review of these bills. JLARC staff contacted school divisions via e-mail and phone with questions regarding their existing planning time for elementary teachers and how that planning time is made available. 36 school divisions responded. These school divisions overwhelmingly indicated that they do provide their teachers with planning time. The divisions also overwhelmingly indicated that this time occurs when students are with resource teachers or in the library. They also indicated that they are generally able to find planning time for special education teachers and for their resource teachers.

The Department of Education (DOE) indicates that if the assumption is made, based on the JLARC analysis, that the current resource teacher and librarian standards funded in the Standards of Quality are sufficient to provide all elementary teachers with an average of 30 minutes per day of planning time per week, then bill as amended would not have a state or local impact. DOE did indicate that if the current SOQ standards for resource teachers and librarians are not sufficient to provide all elementary teachers with the specified planning time, it is assumed that the additional cost would be paid from local funds.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Same as HB1216

Date: 2/8/2008 dpb

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c: Secretary of Education