SERATE BILL NO. 1173           Offered January 14, 2009           Prefiled January 13, 2009           A BILL to direct the State Board for Community Colleges, in consultation with the Virginia Department of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to develop a two-year pile program to provide grants to community colleges to establish open education resource centers in the Commonwealth.           Patron—Watkins           Bill Common Development of Community colleges to establish open education resource centers in the Commonwealth.           Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:           1. \$ 1. Open Education Resource Center Grant Fund established.           There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonrevening fund to be known as the Open Education Resource Center Grant Fund, heredgier referred to as "the Fund." The Fund shall consist of ary funds appropriated to it by the general appropriation act and revenue from any other source, public or private. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller, and any funds remaining it to be the fund. Moreys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of developing and funding a competitive grant pilot program to provide grants to community colleges.           2. \$ 1. "Open education resource creates "means learning materials or resources whose copyrights have expired, or that have been released with an intellectual property license that permits their free use of re-purposing by others without the permission of the Original authors or creators. Open education resource context in the premission of the Community colleges.           2. \$ 1. "Open education resource," means learning materials or resources whose copyrights hav		085723868
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50 3. Providing information on accessibility issues for students with disabilities;		
	50	
	51	4. Developing options that incorporate multiple learning styles and strategies; and
		5. Building learner knowledge and skills that are necessary to find, adapt, repurpose, and create
53 accessible OER for use in the classroom.	55 54	
		D. Create or support an OER information repository to serve as a point of contact for information about courses and professional resources for
		about courses and course materials, research and production processes, and professional resources for creating and repurposing OFR
		<i>E. Conduct a two-year formative and summative research study and evaluation that compares OER</i>
		with non-OER courses and materials with regard to quality and cost, and evaluates the efficacy of the

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59 pilot program for statewide replication. The successful applicant shall contract with an independent

60 third party with expertise in evaluating educational content and curriculum development. The evaluation 61 shall include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the number of faculty and students that use OER

61 shall include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the number of faculty and students that use OER
62 in their classes, the quality of their experiences compared to traditional courses, student performance,

63 potential cost savings, and the quality of OER and non-OER course materials. This evaluation shall be

64 submitted to the General Assembly no later than July 1, 2011.

**65** *F.* Provide outreach to school districts and community colleges at regional and state educational and technology conferences to support the establishment of local OER centers.

67 G. Develop a sustainability plan and business model to fund the OER centers on an ongoing basis.

68 3. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective until either an appropriation of general

69 funds effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriations act passed by

70 the 2009 or 2010 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law, or funds from other

71 private or public sources are deposited into the Open Education Resource Grant Fund by July 1, 2010.