Department of Planning and Budget
2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1173

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

2. **Patron:** Watkins

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Open education resource centers; fund established; pilot project.

5. **Summary:** Requires 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 competitive grant pilot program to provide grants to community colleges to establish open education resource centers in the Commonwealth. To qualify for a grant, community colleges shall be required to demonstrate a partnership with faculty or staff from at least one local school division and one institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. Grants would be awarded on a competitive basis with guidelines established in the bill. The bill also establishes a fund authorizing both public and private contributions. The provisions of this bill would not become effective until either an appropriation of general funds effectuating the purposes of this bill is included in a general appropriations act passed by the 2009 or 2010 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law, or funds from other private or public sources are deposited into the Open Education Resource Grant Fund by July 1, 2010.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See item 8

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, if funding is provided; either with State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in Item 149, or the Department of Education, Item 138.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill does not include specific fiscal resources. According to the Joint Commission On Technology (JCOT), it would be a virtual center, at a pilot community college. It would potentially provide database links (similar to the Virtual Library of Virginia, and FindIt Virginia, the database for K-12), on-line academic courses, and training modules for teachers on the development of on-line modules. It is anticipated that several not for profit organizations would be the repository for several of the databases. It is not clear if the state currently supports any of the databases through other resources listed above, or through an electronic blackboard service.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Department of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, local school divisions and community colleges receiving the grant.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill was submitted on the recommendation of the Joint Commission On Technology (JCOT)**.** The companion bill is HB 1940.

Date: 1/19/2009 rsa

C: Secretary of Education