

Department of Planning and Budget 2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1435

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

2. Patron: Bell, Richard P.

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: American Sign Language; recognition for completed coursework.

5. Summary: Provides that if a local school board offers an elective course in American Sign Language, it must grant academic credit for course completion on the same basis as the successful completion of a foreign language course and count course completion in American Sign Language toward the fulfillment of any foreign language requirement for graduation. Additionally, the bill requires public institutions of higher education to count academic credit received for successful completion of American Sign Language courses in a secondary school or higher education institution toward satisfaction of the foreign language entrance requirements.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation codifies a current practice that has been in place for more than ten years in local school divisions. Local school boards may offer one or more elective courses in American Sign Language. If offered, local school boards are required to grant academic credit for completion of an American Sign Language course on the same basis as the successful completion of a foreign language course; and count completion of an American Sign Language course toward the fulfillment of any foreign language requirement for graduation. Given that school divisions already have the ability to offer such courses and this legislation does not require the state to provide any additional resources to support them, it is anticipated that this provision will have no fiscal impact.

In addition, this bill would now require any public institution of higher education in Virginia to recognize academic credit received for either successful completion of American Sign Language courses in a secondary school or higher education institution as sufficient to meet the foreign language entrance requirements of such institutions. Currently, the decision is left up to the institution on whether or not to recognize such credits. The legislation does not require the institutions to offer such courses, only to accept the credits already earned by the students. Therefore, it is anticipated that this provision will also have no fiscal impact.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Board of Education, local school divisions, and public institutions of higher education.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/17/2011 dpbsbj

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