

## Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1179-ER

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:** Yost

3. **Committee:** Passed both houses

4. **Title:** Public schools; character education.

5. **Summary:** Provides that a school board may provide its character education program during the summer in a youth development academy offered by the school division. The Department of Education shall develop curricular guidelines for school divisions to use in establishing a character education program through a summer youth development academy.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Pursuant to § 22.1-208.01, *Code of Virginia*, school divisions are required to establish character education programs in the public schools. This bill would amend the *Code of Virginia* to allow school divisions to either offer the character education programs during the regular school year, during the summer in a youth development academy offered by the school division, or in both settings.

In addition, this legislation would require the Department of Education to develop curricular guidelines to assist school divisions in establishing their character education programs in a summer youth development academy. Finally, this legislation shifts responsibility for providing resources and assistance in the implementation of character education programs from the Board of Education to the Department of Education. It is anticipated that the additional responsibilities assigned to the Department of Education can be absorbed within current resources.

Given that school divisions are already required to establish character education programs in the public schools, no additional state funding is required if this bill passes. However, the Governor's introduced budget for the 2012-2014 biennium (House Bill 30) included \$67,897 each year from the general fund to support implementation of the summer Youth Development Academy pilot program for rising 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in one of the eight superintendents' planning regions. Subsequently, the Governor submitted an executive amendment for an additional \$475,279 each year from the general fund to expand the pilot program to all eight superintendents' planning regions. The budget as originally approved by

the House included the full amount of \$543,176 each year proposed by the Governor. The budget recommendations by the Senate Finance Committee included only the original amount of \$67,897 each year proposed by the Governor. The newly introduced House Bill 1301, as passed by the House Appropriations Committee, includes the \$543,176 requested by the Governor to support the creation of this group.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/29/2012

**Document:** H:\EDUCATION\K-12\General Assembly\2012\FIS\HB1179ER.doc

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