

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1066

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

2. Patron: Webert

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Industry certification and state licensure examinations; substitution for SOL assessments.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would require the Board of Education to authorize local school boards to select and substitute industry certification and state licensure examinations for Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments for the purpose of awarding verified units of credit for career and technical education (CTE) courses. Current law permits but does not require the substitution of industry certification and state licensure examinations for Standards of Learning assessments for the purpose of awarding verified units of credit for career and technical education courses.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, all CTE courses that are eligible for Standards of Quality (SOQ) add-on funding distributed to school divisions must be state-approved. The state-approved CTE curricula are driven by current labor market data and workforce needs, reviewed, updated, and or developed by experienced Virginia teachers and validated by expert industry panels. At any time during the school year, school division personnel, as well as industry credentialing providers, may request the state CTE staff to review the credential. If the credential meets the Board's criteria, it will be presented to the Board during the annual review for approval. All Board-approved industry credentials are eligible for state and federal Perkins funding distributed to school divisions by formula based on CTE course enrollments.

Additionally, the Board of Education currently approves all substitute SOL tests for verified credit to satisfy graduation requirements. Board-approved industry certification examinations, occupational competency assessments, and licenses are considered substitute tests. Because the substitute test is verifying student achievement as related to SOL content, it must be approved by the Board of Education. Standardized criteria are used to evaluate and select the credentials for verified credit.

Transferring approval authority from the Virginia Board of Education to local boards to select and substitute industry certification and state licensure examinations for SOL assessments for the purpose of awarding verified units of credit for career and technical education would result in an increased cost to the state as a result of the following:

- Providing research services and maintaining current profiles for industry credentials would be affected.
- State and federal guidelines for funding industry credentials would need to be revised; all Board-approved industry credentials are eligible for state and federal Perkins funding distributed to school divisions by formula based on CTE course enrollments.
- Monitoring of different credential systems in 132 school divisions would necessitate a new, resource-intensive, process.

The actual cost to the state as a result of these factors is indeterminate at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/29/2014 dpb/smc

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