

Department of Planning and Budget

2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB172

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: Farrell

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Standards of Learning tests; expedited retake.

5. Summary: The bill would require the Board of Education to promulgate regulations to provide the same criteria for eligibility for an expedited retake of any Standards of Learning (SOL) test to all students regardless of grade level or course.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 136.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill would require the Board of Education to promulgate regulations related to retaking SOL tests. The cost to the state to administer SOL writing tests is \$9.42 per additional test administered, and the cost to the state to administer all other SOL tests is \$1.22 per additional test administered. The increased cost to administer writing tests is due to the costs associated with readers scoring the student short papers. Those costs may be higher if additional readers are needed to score the short papers written by students.

Using the number of tests that would be eligible for an expedited retake using SOL assessment scores from fall 2012 and spring 2013, the total cost to the state for FY2015 and FY2016 is estimated at \$412,040 each year.

In October 2013, the Board of Education approved amendments to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, adding a provision to allow students in grades three through eight who score between 375 and 399 to have opportunities to take an expedited retake of a Standards of Learning test should funds for such purposes be appropriated by the General Assembly.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Board of Education

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: Identical to HB548 and SB389. Similar to SB305.

Date: 1/24/2014 dpb/smc

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