Department of Planning and Budget
2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1941

House of Origin	☒ Introduced	☐ Substitute	☐ Engrossed
Second House	☐ In Committee	☐ Substitute	☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Adams

3. **Committee:** Education

4. **Title:** School calendar.

5. **Summary:** The proposed legislation would make local school boards responsible for setting the school calendar and determining the opening date of the school year. The bill would eliminate the post-Labor Day opening requirement and "good cause" scenarios for which the Board of Education may grant waivers of this requirement.

    For the 2014-2015 school year, 43 school divisions have a waiver for weather-related reasons, five have dependent programs, five are entirely surrounded by a school division that has an opening date prior to Labor Day, 17 have waivers granted through Item 136 of the 2014 Appropriation Act, and three have waivers for innovative or experimental programs.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: None.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This legislation permits local school divisions to set the school calendar and determine the opening date for the school year without any restrictions set forth by the Board of Education. Currently, school divisions are not permitted to begin the school year prior to Labor Day unless they are granted a waiver by the Board of Education pursuant to § 22.1-79.1, Code of Virginia. Providing that the calendar adopted by a school division under this legislation still meets the minimum requirements for instructional time in a school year, it is not anticipated that this legislation will have any state fiscal impact.

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

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

11. **Other Comments:** HB1550, HB1838, SB830, SB1078, SB1131, and SB1249 also amend provisions regarding the school calendar.