

Department of Planning and Budget

2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB321

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: Barker

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Public schools; kindergarten instructional time.

5. Summary: Directs the Board of Education to promulgate regulations by July 1, 2018, establishing standards for accreditation that include a requirement that the standard school day for students in kindergarten average at least 5.5 instructional hours in order to qualify for full accreditation. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2018.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact as a result of this bill. Currently, as long as a school division's kindergarten pupil/teacher ratio is less than 30 to one, a student attending either a half-day kindergarten program or a full-day kindergarten program is counted as 1.00 in the division's average daily membership (ADM) count. Per § 22.1-253.13:2, Code of Virginia, school divisions offering half-day kindergarten with pupil/teacher ratios that exceed 30 to one shall adjust their kindergarten ADM to reflect 85 percent of the total kindergarten ADM; however, currently there are not any divisions whose ADM values are adjusted under this provision. A requirement that all divisions offer only full-day kindergarten would not affect the funding paid from the state to local school divisions based on ADM. For the 2015-2016 school year, Chesapeake, Loudoun, and Virginia Beach are the only school divisions with significant numbers of students in half-day kindergarten programs.

If the affected school divisions implement full-day kindergarten, divisions may need to provide additional resources, hire additional staff, or add classroom space in order to accommodate full-day kindergarten versus half-day kindergarten. The actual fiscal impact would vary by locality and cannot be determined at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.