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**SENATE BILL NO. 1532****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance  
on January 30, 2019)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Sturtevant)

*A BILL to create a pilot program related to high school STEM apprenticeship grants.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

*1. § 1. There is hereby established a pilot program for Richmond City Public Schools for a maximum of 25 high school juniors or seniors, in a high school, technical center, or specialty school, to participate as apprentices in certain fields. A business shall apply to the Superintendent of Richmond City Schools to host an apprentice and be eligible to receive a grant of up to \$2,500 per student, based upon procedures and forms developed by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall receive nominations of students to serve as apprentices during their junior and senior year of high school from principals and guidance counselors at qualified schools. The Superintendent shall select a maximum of 25 students to participate in the program, the selection of whom shall be based on the needs of the businesses that have applied to participate in the program. Each student shall be eligible to participate in the program for two academic semesters. If more than 25 businesses apply to participate in the program, the Superintendent shall select the businesses that most closely align with the interests and fields of study of the nominated students. If fewer than 25 businesses apply to participate in the program, a business may elect to host more than one apprentice under the program. In order to be eligible to receive a credit pursuant to this section, a business shall provide the apprentice with a stipend that is no less than the amount of the grant to be received by the business.*

*§ 2. The Superintendent shall report annually, no later than January 1, to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Finance, and the Senate Committee on Finance. The report shall, at a minimum, identify the businesses that participated in the apprenticeship program, the number of students who participated in the apprenticeship program, the qualified fields in which the apprenticeship were focused, the general experience of the businesses and students who participated, and whether any student who participated in the program pursued a workforce credential or gained employment in the field of the apprenticeship after the apprenticeship concluded.*

**2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed in 2019 by the General Assembly that becomes law.**