

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1986

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

2. Patron: Bell

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Children in residence or custody; participation in educational programs.

5. Summary: This bill requires that any child who is admitted to a state hospital or state mental health facility for inpatient treatment shall, if appropriate, participate in any education and training program in such state hospital or state mental health facility unless such child has been excused from attendance at school attendance due to a bona fide religious training or belief.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019			
2020	\$480,000		GF
2021	\$480,000		GF
2022	\$480,000		GF
2023	\$480,000		GF
2024	\$480,000		GF
2025	\$480,000		GF

8. Fiscal Implications: Under current regulations, children who have been committed to a state hospital or mental health facility must have written permission from his or her parent or legal guardian to be enrolled in an educational program provided by the facility. Written permission can be difficult to obtain given geographical and other barriers, resulting in many children being unable to participate. This legislation removes that requirement, making it easier for children admitted to state facilities to continue their education uninterrupted while receiving treatment.

For example, at the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA) – the only state mental health facility in Virginia for individuals under 18 years of age – full day educational services are offered to all children in its care, including classes comparable to the student’s schedule at his/her home school. However, only half of the children in the facility at any given time have received the required parental permission. For CCCA, the educational

staff are employees of Staunton City Schools with program oversight by the Virginia Department of Education as a State Operated Program. There is no projected cost to this legislation at CCCA.

The Department of Education has estimated, however, that they will need two additional teachers at each of the following hospitals who are also served by DOE State Operated Programs: Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters (Norfolk), UVA (Charlottesville), and MCV-VCU (Richmond). The estimated salary and benefits costs is \$75,000 each per teacher, for a total of \$450,000. Additional materials costs are estimated at \$30,000, for a total of \$480,000 per year.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Education

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.