

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1525

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

2. Patron: Sturtevant

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Public schools; Standards of Learning assessments.

5. Summary: Reduces the total number and type of required Standards of Learning assessments to the minimum requirements established by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-10, as amended. The bill requires the Department of Education to calculate any potential or realized savings from the implementation of the bill and to report the amount of such savings to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance by November 1, 2020. Such amount shall be included in the total for Direct Aid to Public Education in any general appropriation act for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 130.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Education estimates a state general fund savings of \$1,325,000 in FY 2020 and outgoing fiscal years. This estimate is based upon reduced test administration costs, as this bill would eliminate the following assessments:

History:

- Virginia Studies
- Civics & Economics
- End-of-Course World History to 1500
- End-of-Course World History: 1500 to the Present
- End-of-Course World Geography
- End-of-Course Virginia and United States History

Science:

- End-of-Course Earth Science
- End-of-Course Chemistry

Writing:

- Grade 8 Writing
- End-of-Course Writing

Eliminating the Virginia Studies assessment and the Civics & Economics assessment would have a variable fiscal impact on local school divisions. Current law requires each school board to annually certify that it has provided instruction and administered an alternative assessment, consistent with Board guidelines, to students in grades three through eight in each Standards of Learning subject area in which a Standards of Learning assessment was not administered during the school year. The changes made in this bill would require school divisions to implement local alternative assessments for the two history tests, Virginia Studies and Civics & Economics. The fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None