

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1590

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Dunnavant

3. Committee: Finance

4. Title: Virtual Virginia.

5. Summary: Requires that the Virtual Virginia program, the online learning program established by the Department of Education, be made available to every public school in Virginia. Currently, the program is available only to high schools. The bill requires the Department to utilize a learning management system for the purposes of implementing Virtual Virginia. The bill also authorizes the Department to charge a per-student fee to school divisions for each student enrolled in a full-time Virtual Virginia program beyond an initial allotment of 15 such students per school division and prohibits the Department from limiting the total number of such students by school division. The bill also prohibits the Department from charging school divisions for access to course materials. Additionally, the bill requires the Department to report annually on the Virtual Virginia Program by November 1 of each year.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Education (DOE) does not anticipate an immediate state general fund impact from the provisions of this bill. However, if the Virtual Virginia program expands significantly as a result of this legislation and nongeneral fund revenues are not sufficient to support program expansion, additional general fund appropriation may be necessary. Any actual state general fund cost to support such expansion is indeterminate at this time.

The Senate substitute of SB1590 permits the Department of Education (DOE) to charge a per-course enrollment fee to school divisions for each student enrolled in a Virtual Virginia course beyond an initial allotment of 15 such students per school division. This fee structure models current practice, and therefore, there is no anticipated state fiscal impact from this provision. The bill also requires Virtual Virginia programming to be made available to every public school in Virginia, whereas currently, Virtual Virginia programming is available only to high schools. As the program expands, DOE anticipates that the agency can incorporate the cost of educating additional students into the fee structure, which will generate additional nongeneral fund revenues to support the expanded programming.

The bill also requires DOE to utilize a learning management system (LMS) for the purposes of implementing Virtual Virginia. DOE anticipates that the agency can incorporate the cost to expand its existing LMS for Virtual Virginia through the fee structure, which will generate additional nongeneral fund revenues.

With a substantial expansion of the program to all schools statewide, DOE likely will need additional agency staff to manage the expanded program. The agency anticipates that the cost to support such staff could be incorporated into the fee structure and supported by nongeneral fund revenues.

Any fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None