

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB836

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: Carroll Foy

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Department of Education; microcredentials; standards.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Education to develop and adopt standards for microcredentials earned by public school teachers in the Commonwealth, including microcredentials used toward add-on endorsements, initial licensure, renewal of licensure, and professional development points in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, that align with nationally-accepted standards for microcredentials, such as those utilized by the nonprofit organization Digital Promise. Such standards shall include (i) educator microcredentials focused on discrete competencies based upon relevant, peer-reviewed research in the specific domain or discipline; (ii) educator microcredentials that rely upon demonstrable evidence from the submission of artifacts, such as student projects and teacher lesson plans, that are then objectively scored against existing rubrics; and (iii) educator microcredentials that focus on interrelated competencies leading to logical teacher professional development pathways and stacks of educator microcredentials. The bill requires any entity that issues microcredentials to public school teachers in the Commonwealth to comply with such standards.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 142.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	\$0	0.0	N/A
2021	\$145,300	1.0	General
2022	\$125,300	1.0	General
2023	\$125,300	1.0	General
2024	\$125,300	1.0	General
2025	\$125,300	1.0	General
2026	\$125,300	1.0	General

8. Fiscal Implications: Chapter 597 and Chapter 227, 2019 Acts of Assembly, required the Virginia Department of Education (DOE) to convene a workgroup to study the feasibility of enacting standards for microcredentialing. The workgroup presented the following recommendations to the Board of Education:

1. Clarify Virginia license renewal language about the use of microcredentials for professional development points.
2. Consider microcredentials as a component of an alternate route to licensure or a teacher preparation program submitted to the Virginia Board of Education for approval.
3. Allow microcredentials, regardless of delivery modality, to be considered for use by educators.
4. Allow the opportunity to pilot the development, use, and evaluation of microcredentials for Virginia educators in accordance with Board of Education guidelines.

DOE will require additional staff resources to perform the work required by this bill and to maintain the extensive list of applicable microcredentials. DOE anticipates the need for one pay band five position at an estimated annual cost of \$120,300 for salary and benefits and an additional \$5,000 per year for technology fees and supplies.

To develop the standards, DOE would also need to convene four meetings of stakeholders. The scope of expertise necessary to cover the array of microcredentialing subject areas will be similar to meetings conducted by the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, which cost \$5,000 each. Stakeholder meetings will require an additional one-time \$20,000 in state funding.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None