

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB86

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: Kilgore

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Standards of Quality; local match for basic aid, debt service on projects in school divisions.

5. Summary: Permits any local school board that governs a school division (i) in which the locality is designated as fiscally at-risk or fiscally distressed by the Appalachian Regional Commission in the most recent fiscal year or is determined to have above-average fiscal stress or high fiscal stress by the Virginia Commission on Local Government in its most recent "Report on the Comparative Revenue Capacity, Revenue Effort, and Fiscal Stress of Virginia Counties and Cities" and (ii) for which the composite index of local ability to pay is less than or equal to 0.2000 to expend up to 25 percent of the required local effort for basic aid for debt service on school building capital renovation or construction projects. The bill provides that in the event that the school division no longer meets such criteria, the local school board shall develop and implement a plan to readjust expenditures of the required local effort for basic aid over the course of no more than four fiscal years. The bill also provides that in the event that a school division that no longer met such criteria subsequently meets the criteria again after developing a plan, the local school board may seek the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to amend such plan. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2032.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact under Direct Aid to Public Education because this bill does not alter how state funding is calculated for or distributed to local school divisions. However, there is a potential state cost to the Department of Education to review, approve, and/or monitor the local school division plan required by subsections B and C of this bill. Any actual fiscal impact is indeterminate.

This bill would allow certain local school divisions to expend up to 25 percent of the required local effort for basic aid on debt service for school building capital renovation or construction projects. The purpose of required local effort is to ensure that each school division has sufficient local operational expenditures to support its local share of the cost of the Standards

of Quality. The Standards of Quality are the minimum requirements that must be met by all Virginia public schools and school divisions. This bill could reduce the amount of local funds supporting classroom instruction and other school operations required by the Standards of Quality.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: By definition, required local effort is the amount of required local expenditure in support of the Standards of Quality. Basic aid is one component of the Standards of Quality. If 25 percent of required local effort applies only to the portion attributable to basic aid, it may be appropriate to clarify this by replacing “for” with “attributable to” on line 19.

11. Other Comments: One of the eligibility requirements established by this bill is a locality’s designation in the Virginia Commission on Local Government’s report on the “Comparative Revenue Capacity, Revenue Effort, and Fiscal Stress of Virginia Counties and Cities”. This report currently is not legislatively mandated, but the provisions of this bill, in effect, could mandate this report.