

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB 324

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:** Deeds

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** School bus drivers; critical shortages.

5. **Summary:** Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the assistance of each school board or division superintendent, to survey each local school division to identify critical shortages of school bus drivers by geographic area and local school division and to report any such critical shortage to each local school division and to the Virginia Retirement System.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** There are not any fiscal implications for Virginia Retirement System (VRS) plans. The Department of Education anticipates that it can absorb any additional costs resulting from the provisions of this bill.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Retirement System, Department of Education, and local school divisions.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** This bill would annually require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify critical shortages of bus drivers throughout the Commonwealth and report the findings to VRS and local school divisions. Likewise, school divisions would be required to annually provide the Superintendent of Public Instruction certain information relating to bus drivers in the effort to identify critical shortages.

Unlike the teacher critical shortage program, the bill does not amend Title 51.1 to permit retirees to return to work in a VRS-covered bus driver position while simultaneously collecting a VRS benefit. VRS' understanding is that the patron may submit a substitute bill modifying Title 51.1, at which time VRS will provide further comment about the fiscal implications of retirees returning to work.

This bill is similar to HB 351, although HB 351 amends § 51.1-155(C) to allow certain bus drivers to return to work in a VRS-covered position while receiving a retirement benefit.