

Department of Planning and Budget
2020 Special Session I - Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB5094

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: Dunnavant

3. Committee: Finance and Appropriations

4. Title: School boards; teachers; paid leave; COVID-19; emergency.

5. Summary: Requires each school board to provide to each teacher in the local school division up to 14 days of paid leave, in addition to any other paid leave to which such individual is otherwise entitled, that may be used in the event that the teacher (i) has been exposed to the COVID-19 virus and is required to self-quarantine, (ii) contracts COVID-19, or (iii) is required to provide care for a family member who contracts COVID-19. The bill contains an emergency clause.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact in the 2020-2022 biennium. Local school divisions would incur a cost to hire substitute teachers for any teacher granted leave under the new leave category proposed by this bill. Substitute costs are a factor of the Basic Aid per pupil amount, so increased substitute costs could generate a future state cost in the event that this local expense occurs in a base year for rebenchmarking. The next base year is FY 2022. Any actual state cost in outgoing years is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB 5078. The Virginia Retirement System notes that the paid leave required by this bill is similar to the Public Health Emergency Leave (PHLE) implemented by the Commonwealth, which is not applicable to teachers. If the new proposed category of leave is used because the teacher contracted COVID-19, then the leave payment would be offset from the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) Short Term Disability benefit for teachers in the Hybrid Retirement Plan. VLDP cannot be used if the absence is to provide care to a family member, or if the need for the leave is due to precautionary quarantine due to possible exposure, so there would be no impact on VLDP in either of those cases.