

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1078

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| 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: Suetterlein

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Department of Education; federal accountability indicators; PSAT/NMSQT; PreACT.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Education to amend its state plan pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act to include the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and the PreACT in the next federal accountability indicators application. The bill directs the Department and the Board of Education to grant verified credit to students who have earned approved scores on these two tests and permit schools to count those students as a "pass."

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 139.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), it is not possible for both the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (now known as the PSAT 10) and the PreACT to be included in Virginia's ESSA State Plan. Instead, the Virginia Board of Education would have to adopt either the PSAT 10 or the PreACT as the assessment of reading and mathematics at the high school level for federal accountability instead of the current end-of-course reading and Algebra I Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. All students in the Commonwealth would be required to take the selected assessment in lieu of the Reading SOL test and Algebra I SOL test. The only exception would be students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program.

The chosen assessment (either PSAT 10 or PreACT) would have to adhere to the same strenuous standards as the Virginia SOL tests to include:

- i. Alignment with the SOL in depth and breadth of content
- ii. Provision of appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and English learners
- iii. Adherence to all technical qualifications

In order to develop a fiscal impact for this bill, the Virginia Department of Education (DOE) assumes that it would use the PSAT 10, as this test currently is a Board-approved substitute test. DOE estimates a cost of \$13.60 per student to administer the PSAT 10. DOE's fall membership projections for the introduced budget, HB/SB 30, estimate 10th grade enrollment at 99,678 students in FY 2021 and 100,102 students in FY 2022. The estimated cost to administer the PSAT 10 to all 10th graders is \$1.4 million in FY 2021 and \$1.4 million in FY 2022. This fiscal impact estimate assumes that the state would be responsible for this cost.

There will be students who do not earn a score that earns a verified credit. These students may request to retake the test, which would generate additional costs. These costs are indeterminate.

There also would be costs associated with conducting studies to demonstrate the alignment between the Virginia Learning SOL and the content assessed by the PSAT. Based on the cost of previous alignment studies, DOE estimates a state cost of \$75,000 to \$100,000 for these alignment studies.

The SOL end-of-course tests in reading and mathematics eventually may be phased out, but this could not occur until the PSAT 10 (or PreACT) was approved by the United States Department of Education's peer review process and extensive changes made to the graduation requirements and school accreditation process under the Standards of Accreditation. Any resulting fiscal impact is indeterminate at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: DOE notes that the PSAT 10 currently is a Board-approved substitute test in reading and Algebra I. The full list of substitute tests may be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/substitute_tests/subtests-verified-credit.pdf

Based on the PSAT's approval as a substitute test, qualifying scores on the PSAT 10 can be used to verify credits in English and in mathematics. In addition, scores are included in school accreditation if they are submitted by the school division to DOE for inclusion.

At this time, the PreACT is not included as a substitute test. The Board's procedure for approving substitute tests requires that a school division "nominate" a test for consideration as a substitute. At this time the PreACT has not been submitted for consideration.