

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1288

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Dunnavant

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Department of Education; special education.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Education and the Board of Education to develop new policies and procedures and effect numerous modifications to existing policies and procedures to improve the administration and oversight of special education in the Commonwealth.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 143.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see Item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2022	\$814,491	GF
2023	\$405,991	GF
2024	\$405,991	GF
2025	\$405,991	GF

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill makes several changes to how the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would operate its special education program. Some changes could be absorbed by existing staff and some would require additional resources.

This bill would require VDOE to develop a training module for each individual who participates in an IEP meeting. VDOE will need to ensure that the model is properly aligned and can add functions to capture documentation related to completion of training. VDOE estimates that it would need \$75,000 in FY2022 to develop this module.

VDOE would also be required to develop and maintain a statewide plan for improving its oversight of local practices related to transition planning and services for children with disabilities and technical assistance and guidance for postsecondary transition planning and services for children with disabilities. VDOE estimates that it would need in \$30,000 in FY2022 for contract assistance and to engage stakeholders.

VDOE would also be required to develop and implement a statewide strategic plan for recruiting and retaining special education teachers. VDOE would require three additional

staff members to complete this provision. One staff member would be needed to coordinate the development, evaluation and maintenance of the strategic plan, as well as collect necessary data from school divisions. Two additional staff members would be necessary to coordinate and implement the strategic plan. VDOE estimates that the annual cost for these additional staff members would be \$395,991.

VDOE would also be required to collect the results of a self-assessment and action planning instrument addressing inclusion practices from school divisions every three years. An existing optional assessment would need to be made mandatory and VDOE would need to convert the assessment to a web-based tool for increased efficiency. VDOE estimates that it would need \$100,000 in FY2022 to complete this work.

The Board of Education would be required to develop and implement requirements for earning an applied studies diploma. VDOE estimates it would need \$30,000 in FY2022 for contractor support and stakeholder meets to gather feedback on the standards.

VDOE would need to develop a training module for individuals seeking a teacher's license renewal on the instruction of students with disabilities. VDOE estimates it would need \$150,000 in FY2022 to develop an online module and \$10,000 annually to maintain and house the module.

VDOE would be required to develop guidance in multiple languages related to the applied studies diploma. VDOE estimates it would need \$3,500 in FY2022 to translate the guidance into six languages.

Finally the bill would require VDOE to implement a clear and comprehensive plan to improve its approach to monitoring Virginia's special education system. VDOE would need additional staff to create the report. VDOE estimates that it would need \$30,000 in FY2022 for contract assistance and to engage stakeholders.

The total state fiscal impact of this bill would be \$814,491 in FY2022 and \$405,991 annually, beginning in FY2023. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB2299.