

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB585

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: VanValkenburg

3. Committee: Passed both houses.

4. Title: Middle and high school end-of-course assessments; number and type.

5. Summary: Requires, except for those middle and high school students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in an alternate assessment, each student in middle and high school to take only those end-of-course Standards of Learning assessments necessary to meet federal accountability requirements and Virginia high school graduation requirements. The bill requires, with such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose, and except in the case of students who participate in an alternate assessment, the Standards of Learning assessments for Virginia Studies, Civics and Economics, Virginia and U.S. history, and biology to include items that require the student to apply knowledge and skills in preparing a response. Such items shall include open-ended questions, long-form writing, and other tasks, with student responses scored by the Department of Education according to statewide scoring rubrics. The bill requires student performance on the Virginia and U.S. history and biology end-of-course assessments to account for 10 percent of the student's final grade in each such course. The bill also requires the Department of Education to convene and consult a work group to develop a plan for the implementation of such assessment items no later than the beginning of the 2027–2028 school year. In addition, the Department of Education shall submit its initial plan to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than November 1, 2022, and provide updates on the implementation of such plan no later than November 1 of each year thereafter through 2027.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would require the development of performance-based tasks to be added to the Biology, Virginia Studies, Civics and Economics, and Virginia and United States History assessments.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to convene a work group to develop a plan for implementation of the assessments. DOE can absorb any costs associated with convening a work group and developing an implementation plan. The bill also directs DOE

to consider a number of factors but does not require a specific method for implementation. Therefore there is no anticipated state fiscal impact at this time.

The bill requires that in addition to implementing the new assessments, the number of required end of year assessments be reduced to the federal minimum. Savings due to the reduction of assessments in future biennia is indeterminate at this time.

If DOE were to implement a plan based on the original bill requirements that are to be considered by the work group, it estimates that item development for assessments, including document based open ended questions, would cost \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2.0 million annually for four years beginning in fiscal year 2025. DOE also estimates that field testing of the new assessments would cost \$750,000 in fiscal year 2025, \$3.0 million in fiscal year 2026, \$2.25 million in fiscal year 2027 and \$2.0 million annually thereafter. In addition, DOE estimates that development for the field samples would cost \$75,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$225,000 in fiscal year 2024. Finally, DOE estimates that new test administration would cost \$1.5 million in fiscal year 2027 and \$6 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2028. These cost estimates are subject to the state testing contract, which is scheduled to be open for bid during the implementation period.

DOE would also require an additional staff member to coordinate the work on the assessments at a cost of \$132,932 annually, including salary, benefits, and technology, beginning in fiscal year 2024, if it were to implement a plan based on the original bill requirements.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None