

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1816

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: Avoli

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Dangers and victims of communism; recognition; Standards of Learning and programs of instruction.

5. Summary: Requires the Governor to annually issue a proclamation setting the seventh day of November as Victims of Communism Day and requiring such day to be suitably observed in each public elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth as a day honoring the approximately 100 million individuals who have fallen victim to communist regimes around the world and to be suitably observed by a public exercise in the Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor may designate in such proclamation. The bill also requires the Board of Education to include in the history and social science Standards of Learning and each school board to emphasize in its Standards-aligned program of instruction the study of the dangers of communism.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 129.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill makes revisions to the Standards of Learning (SOLs), which will likely require a three-year process to implement. Standards revision requires implementation in grades K-12. The history SOLs are currently being reviewed by the Board of Education (BOE). In the draft proposed Standards of Learning, the dangers of communism are taught beginning with the 6th grade and taught through 12th grade. To add content for grades K-5, DOE would require \$24,000 in one-time costs.

If it is determined that the proposed history SOLs for grades 6 through 12 do not meet the definition of the “dangers of communism” as defined in this bill, then the state fiscal impact would escalate dramatically. Agency costs to enter a multi-year process to revise SOLs would cost approximately \$350,000.

If the BOE is required to revise the history standards again to be compliant with HB 1816, it will likely delay other SOL reviews. There could be additional costs to the BOE to remain on schedule with their SOL reviews, which cannot be estimated at this time.

Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None