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SENATE BILL NO. 385
Offered January 10, 2024
Prefiled January 9, 2024
A BILL to direct the Board of Education, in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to convene a work group to study and make recommendations on the use of artificial intelligence technology in education.

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Patron—Pekarsky

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Referred to Committee on Rules

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Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
1. *§ 1. The Board of Education (the Board), in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (the Council), shall convene a work group for the purpose of developing recommendations for guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in education in public schools and in public institutions of higher education. The work group shall consist of at least one division superintendent, representatives of local school boards, and representatives of public school teachers, to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Delegates upon consideration of the recommendations of the Board; representatives of governing boards of public institutions of higher education and faculty of public institutions of higher education with expertise in STEM subject areas and AI ethics, to be selected by the Senate Committee on Rules upon consideration of the recommendations of the Council; representatives of the Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Advisory Board; representatives of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development; and such other individuals with expertise in AI technology as the Board and the Council deem appropriate. In conducting its study, the work group shall:*
1. Evaluate the utility and impacts of integrating AI technology in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education;
2. Study the feasibility of integrating AI technology into existing classroom instruction, curriculum development, and individualized learning, including the feasibility of (i) integrating the use of, instruction on, and hands-on practice with AI technology in the classroom and (ii) facilitating and coordinating partnerships between public secondary schools and comprehensive community colleges, workforce development programs, and industry associations for the purpose of providing secondary school students the opportunity to receive instruction on and gain experience with AI technology;
3. Evaluate options for preventing the use of AI technology for plagiarism and academic dishonesty on school assessments and assignments;
4. Evaluate and consider policies and procedures for addressing and mitigating potential risks and concerns that could arise from the integration of AI technology in the classroom;
5. Consider the impacts of the integration of AI technology in the classroom on educational equity, including how existing disparities could impact the integration and accessibility of AI technology in the classroom;
6. Evaluate and develop recommendations on the necessity and feasibility of providing guidance or training to educators on the use and integration of AI technology in the classroom, including recommendations on specific guidance or training that may be necessary to prepare educators to responsibly and effectively integrate and utilize AI technology in the classroom; and
7. Develop recommendations on guidelines for the use of AI in public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including the development of (i) acceptable use policies relating to the use of AI technology in education environments aimed at encouraging safe and responsible use of AI technology in the classroom and (ii) model guidance or informational materials aimed at promoting AI technology literacy among both educators and students.
The Board of Education shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Department of Education, the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the House Committee on Education by November 1, 2024.