



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
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House Appropriations Committee
Elementary & Secondary Education Subcommittee
Agenda

February 10, 2010
Delegate Tata, Chairman
Appropriations Room

Immediately Upon Adjournment of the Public Safety Subcommittee

I. Bills Before the Subcommittee

HB 558 (Delegate Tata) **Standards of Quality; changes in provisions.** Provides for (i) early reading intervention services for students in grades K-3 who demonstrate deficiencies; (ii) mathematics intervention services to students in grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 who are at risk of failing the Algebra I end-of-course test; and (iii) local school division flexibility in the use of state funding designated for Standards of Learning Algebra Readiness; Standards of Quality Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation; Early Reading Intervention; and instructional technology resource teachers.

The bill codifies staffing standards for special education, gifted education, and career and technical education. Finally, the bill amends the definition of "support services" and requires local school divisions to report annually the amount of state and local funds budgeted and expended for each category of support services and the amounts received for support services that were used by the local school division to provide additional instructional services.

HB 565 (Delegate Tata) **Public schools; opening of the school year.** Allows local school boards, for years in which Labor Day falls on September 5 or later, to set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school shall be no earlier than one week before Labor Day.

HB581 (Delegate Massie) **Board of Education; teacher licensure; paraprofessional training.** Requires the Board of Education to include in its regulations governing licensure a requirement that by September 1, 2011, every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement in special education and working with students with autism spectrum disorders must obtain a certificate of completion in coursework in autism spectrum disorders, as recognized by the Virginia Autism Council. Also requires that by September 1, 2011, any local school division employing paraprofessional aides for students with an autism spectrum disorder shall provide an 80-hour preservice training program that meets the requirements set forth by the Virginia Autism Council.

HB 599 (Delegate Massie) **Income tax; Public/Private Education Investment Tax Credit.** Creates income tax credits for business entities and individual taxpayers who make contributions to eligible public school foundations and eligible scholarship foundations. For individual taxpayers, the amount of the annual credit is 100 percent of the contribution but may not exceed \$800 for individual taxpayers and \$1,200 for married taxpayers filing jointly. The amount of the annual credit for business entities is 90 percent of the contribution with no limit on the dollar amount. The public school foundations are required to disburse annually 90 percent of the contributions for capital improvement projects approved by the local school board and for extracurricular activities. The scholarship foundations are required to disburse 90 percent of the contributions for qualified educational expenses through scholarships.

There is a \$20 million cap on total tax credits awarded annually, with \$10 million allocated for contributions made to public school foundations and \$10 million allocated for contributions made to scholarship foundations. The credit would be effective for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2011.

HB 669 (Delegate May) **Triennial census of school population; sales and use tax distribution.** Eliminates the requirement that every three years a census of all school-age persons residing within each school division take place. Also eliminates all related requirements regarding appointment and compensation of persons taking census, agents, and census results. The bill also amends the procedure regarding sales and use tax distribution to localities so that distribution is based on the average daily membership of the school division rather than the school-age population of a school division.

HB 1067 (Athey) **Competitive foods in public schools; report.** Requires the Board, in cooperation with the Department of Health, to promulgate and periodically update regulations setting nutritional guidelines for all competitive foods sold during the school day. Also requires (i) the Board to adopt the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Competitive Food Guidelines as the initial statewide standard for competitive foods; (ii) the Board to report to the General Assembly on the final regulations by December 1, 2011; and (iii) local school boards to report to the Department of Education on their plan to implement the final regulations by 30 days prior to the beginning of the 2012 - 2013 school year.

HB 1141 (Delegate Morgan) Education; computation of composite index. Requires the General Assembly to modify the current Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding formula and calculation of composite index of local ability to pay that determines each locality's ability to pay for its share of providing an educational program meeting the prescribed SOQ to incorporate within the current indices of wealth the indicated weighting: (i) true values of real estate and public service corporations, at 30%; (ii) adjusted gross income, at 40%; and (iii) the sales subject to the state general sales and use tax, at 30%.

The current composite index of local ability to pay provides for the true value of real estate weighted at 50%, with adjusted gross income weighted at 40%, and taxable retail sales weighted at 10%, as indicators of local wealth.