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SENATE BILL NO. 822

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
on January 28, 2025)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator VanValkenburg)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-298.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary and secondary school teachers; certain training activities; requirements and limitations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-298.8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-298.8. Public elementary and secondary school teachers; certain training activities; requirements and limitations.

A. As used in this section, "non-academic training activity" means any training activity in which any public elementary or secondary school teacher is required to participate that is not related to the teacher's instructional, academic, or curricular duties. "Non-academic training activity" does not include any requirement relating to licensure.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

1. No public elementary or secondary school teacher shall be required to participate more frequently than once within six months of employment with the applicable school board and once every five years thereafter in any non-academic training described in clause (iii) of subsection A of § 22.1-279.6 or activity, provided, however, that participation in additional training relating to secure mandatory test violations as set forth in §§ 22.1-19.1 and 22.1-292.1, unless may be required upon the determination of the school board or division superintendent determines that such additional training is necessary to comply with federal or state law or to remediate misconduct. Each teacher who completes any such training shall sign a written attestation that the teacher has been trained in and understands the relevant subject matter.

2. The total frequency and duration of non-academic training activities in which each public elementary or secondary school teacher is required to participate pursuant to (i) state law or regulation or (ii) policy or regulation of the applicable school board shall not exceed 20 hours every five years.

C. The provisions of subsection B shall not apply to any non-academic training activity or other training activity in which any public school teacher is required to participate pursuant to federal law or regulation.

2. That the Board of Education shall conduct a review of all non-academic training activities, as that term is defined by § 22.1-298.8 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, including any accompanying training classes or modules, and develop a plan for reducing and streamlining such training activities. The Board of Education shall submit to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education its plan for reducing and streamlining such training activities by November 1, 2026.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

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