

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2455H1

Patron: Rasoul

Bill Title: Public high school students; opportunity to earn associate degree during high school to reduce college debt.

Bill Summary: Expands the scope of postsecondary credit and degree agreements currently required between school boards and comprehensive community colleges and of the College and Career Ready Virginia Program by requiring such agreements and Program to provide for the opportunity for any qualified high school student to earn an associate degree during high school, through dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, or any combination thereof in a meta-major, as defined by the bill, in accordance with the requirements set forth in relevant law, that is fully transferable to any baccalaureate public institution of higher education that offers a program of study in such meta-major and, to the extent possible, satisfies discipline-specific degree requirements in the student's preferred program of study. Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with the Virginia Community College System and baccalaureate public institutions of higher education, to develop and adopt a policy on students' prior learning credits transferring and applying to a baccalaureate degree. Also requires the System, in consultation with the Department of Education, to conduct an analysis on dual enrollment students in each local school division and provide recommendations no later than July 1, 2026.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Explanation: This bill impacts the Department of Education (DOE), the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and baccalaureate public institutions of higher education.

The fiscal impact to VCCS is indeterminate at this time, but potentially significant. The required expansion of the College and Career Ready Virginia program in the first enactment has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026. VCCS may require additional appropriation in FY27 and out years to support these requirements.

The fiscal impact to SCHEV is absorbable. It's anticipated that other institutions of higher education can support the work required by this bill with existing resources. The fiscal impact to DOE is unknown at this time.

Fiscal Summary: VCCS anticipates that the fiscal impact from the provisions of this bill is potentially significant. As written, the bill expands access to the College and Career Ready Virginia (CCRV) program to include any creditable meta-major courses towards an associate degree from a community college and disables VCCS from charging tuition and fees for such courses, even if the program is taught on a community college campus.

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HB1600/SB800 provides \$15.0 million general fund in FY26 to support the CCRV program based on current dual enrollment levels and a one-time transfer of \$20.0 million general fund from the Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back Program (G3) balances to support additional expansions of dual enrollment and noncredit workforce training and credentialing through the CCRV program; however, this initial appropriation does not account for the additional courses made eligible for the program by this bill. If additional general fund appropriation is not provided to cover the cost of tuition for qualified students enrolling concurrently at a community college, as defined by the bill, the bill may have a substantial negative impact to community college revenues, as it would apply not only to students enrolling in dual enrollment programs, but any high school student enrolling at a community college outside of a defined dual enrollment agreement between a community college and a local school division. While the initial transfer of G3 balances may be able to assist with some of the anticipated increase in costs, true impact will be unavailable until enrollment outcomes are analyzed after the first year of the expanded enrollments. The actual fiscal impact to VCCS is indeterminate at this time.

SCHEV anticipates that any fiscal impact from the provisions of this bill is absorbable. It's anticipated that baccalaureate public institutions of higher education can support the work required by the bill with existing resources. Feedback from DOE is not available at this time.

Other: Feedback from DOE is pending. The fiscal impact statement will be updated with relevant feedback when received.