

2026 SESSION

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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 584**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-354.1 and 22.1-354.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Western*
5 *Virginia Public Education Consortium; governance; funding; duties.*

6 Patron—Ballard

7 _____
8 Committee Referral Pending
9

10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

11 **1. That §§ 22.1-354.1 and 22.1-354.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

12 **§ 22.1-354.1. Western Virginia Public Education Consortium established; region defined; governing**
13 **board.**

14 *A. The With such funds as may be appropriated by the General Assembly in the general appropriation*
15 *act, the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium (the Consortium) is hereby established and shall be*
16 *referred to as the Consortium maintained. For the purposes of this chapter and the work of the Consortium,*
17 *"Western Virginia" shall include the Counties of Alleghany, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin,*
18 *Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, and Wythe, and the Cities of Covington, Martinsville,*
19 *Radford, Roanoke, and Salem and may include such other localities as the governing board of the*
20 *Consortium may periodically approve. The governing board of the Consortium shall consist of 33 34*
21 *members that include 14 16 legislative members and the 19 school 18 division superintendents of the named*
22 *localities as follows: 10 11 members of the House of Delegates representing the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth,*
23 *Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth Thirty-fifth, Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth,*
24 *Fortieth, Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, and Nineteenth Forty-eighth*
25 *House Districts; four five members of the Senate representing the Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first*
26 *Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Twenty-fifth Seventh Senatorial Districts, all serving as ex officio*
27 *nonvoting members; and the school division superintendents of Alleghany Highlands (Alleghany-Covington*
28 *consolidated), Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski,*
29 *Roanoke County, Wythe, Covington, Martinsville, Radford, Roanoke City, and Salem or their designees.*

30 *B. Legislative members and school division superintendents shall serve terms coincident with their terms*
31 *of office. The board shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among its members and, by majority*
32 *vote, approve a member school division to serve as fiscal agent for the Consortium.*

33 *C. Members of the board shall serve without compensation. All members shall be reimbursed for all*
34 *reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in the work of the Consortium*
35 *as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. All such expenses shall be paid from existing appropriations to or*
36 *received by the Consortium or, if unfunded, shall be approved by the Joint Rules Committee.*

37 *D. A majority of the 18 division superintendent members of the board shall constitute a quorum. The*
38 *board shall meet at the call of the chairman or whenever a majority of the members so request.*

39 *E. The chairman of the board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive*
40 *summary of the interim activity and work of the board no later than the first day of each regular session of the*
41 *General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division*
42 *of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted*
43 *on the General Assembly's website.*

44 **§ 22.1-354.2. Functions and duties.**

45 The Consortium shall perform the following functions and duties:

46 1. Coordinate with organizations and agencies providing programs and services to Consortium school
47 divisions to reduce duplication of effort and optimize the use of available resources;

48 2. Conduct ongoing assessments to identify needs of member school divisions and develop plans and
49 programs responding to those needs;

50 3. Facilitate the coordination of programs in the Consortium region that affect prekindergarten through
51 grade 12 public education in career and technical education, workforce development, and other linkages
52 between public schools, institutions of higher education, and business and industry;

53 4. Coordinate technology-related activities between Consortium members in areas of common concern,
54 such as video conferencing and distance learning, including the acquisition and utilization of hardware and
55 software for administrative and instructional purchases;

56 5. Develop and maintain linkages with schools and school divisions in Northern Virginia to promote
57 enhanced usage of educational technology; and

58 6. Create the capacity for development within the Consortium of shared services and activities, including

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59 purchasing, facility planning, staff development, and special needs programming, and implementation of such
60 shared services and activities as need is determined.
61 **2. That if the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium is not funded by a separate**
62 **appropriation in the general appropriation act for fiscal year 2027, the provisions of Chapter 20.1**
63 **(§ 22.1-354.1 et seq.) of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia shall expire on January 1, 2027.**