

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

PUBLISHED: 1/26/2026 9:08 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB546

Patron: McNamara

Bill Title: Western Virginia Public Education Consortium; governance; funding; duties.

Bill Summary: Makes several changes relating to the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium, including (i) clarifying that the establishment and maintenance of the Consortium is subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly and providing that if the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium is not funded by a separate appropriation in the general appropriation act for fiscal year 2027, it shall expire on January 1, 2027; (ii) adjusting the membership of the governing board of the Consortium to accurately reflect changes in House and Senatorial Districts and school division consolidation that occurred after the Consortium's initial establishment; and (iii) removing the requirement for the governing board of the Consortium to develop and maintain linkages with schools and school divisions in Northern Virginia to promote enhanced usage of educational technology.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: Item 124

Explanation: See Fiscal Analysis

Fiscal Summary: See Fiscal Analysis.

Fiscal Analysis: The only expected state fiscal impact for this bill is if the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium (Consortium) is funded in the appropriation act. All members of the Board of the Consortium serve without compensation and any appropriation provided will fund travel expenses of the 16 legislative and 18 district superintendent Consortium members. If no appropriation is provided, travel expenses shall be approved by the Joint Rules Committee. There is currently no funding for this Consortium in the Clerks' offices.

For a commission of this nature, travel expenses are typically calculated at \$160 per member, per meeting for mileage. It is estimated that travel expenses will be \$21,760 per year for 34 members attending four meetings per year, the average number of meetings a commission of this nature usually involves.

This bill contains an enactment clause requiring a general appropriation be provided, and if not, then the entire chapter establishing the Western Virginia Public Education Consortium will sunset.

Other: Identical to HB584 and SB692.