

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

PUBLISHED: 2/2/2026 11:20 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB595

Patron: Simonds

Bill Title: Board of Education; requirements for graduation with an advanced studies diploma; simultaneous completion of International Baccalaureate diploma and advanced studies diploma; approval of alternatives for certain credit requirements; regulations.

Bill Summary: Requires the Board of Education to permit any student who (i) during or after grade 10, transferred into a public high school in the Commonwealth and (ii) is simultaneously pursuing an advanced studies diploma and an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma to complete certain courses or sequences of courses required for an IB diploma, as approved by the Board, including substitutes for the Virginia and U.S. history and government courses and for the economics and personal finance credit requirement. The bill also directs the Board to grant a waiver from the training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators required for graduation to any student who (a) pursuant to his individualized education program or Section 504 Plan cannot successfully complete the training or (b) after grade 10, transfers from a school or other education program that does not require or give credit for such training. Finally, the bill directs the Board of Education to amend its regulations to expressly provide that any student who completes the requirements to be eligible for the award of an IB diploma shall be deemed to have satisfied the course and credit requirements for graduation with an advanced studies diploma without having to complete any additional course or credit verification requirements, except in the case of certain course or credit requirements applicable to all high school students pursuant to applicable law.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Education can absorb any impact to update requirements pursuant to the bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Other: This bill is similar to HB132 and SB63.