

Introduction/Support of HB1478 provided by Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative

Chairman Mark Owens and Committee Members:

House Bill 1478 would create a new section to chapter 15.1-07 which is titled School Districts. If passed, the overall result would be the opportunity for students, in grades six through twelve, to receive credit for alternative education opportunities outside of the classroom. Alternative education opportunities could range from participating in an extracurricular activity (theatre, strolling strings, athletics, etc.), holding a job, interning, holding an office in student council, or completing specific requirements of a club or organization (scouting, 4-H, etc.).

This is OPTIONAL for school districts, requires participation of all involved (i.e.: if student is receiving credit for holding a job – involvement of district, employer, teacher of record, student) and requires approval through the department of public instruction.

The proposed legislation would provide the initial waiver process for school districts who choose to permit students to receive credit for alternative education opportunities outside the classroom. The department of public instruction would adopt the rules to administer this section of code, review all district proposals with a defined review committee (includes legislators), allow or deny the proposal, monitor the proposal, revoke a proposal, and provide reports and information to legislative management.

Why this legislation:

- Aligns with the strategic vision of education which states: “Our vision is that all students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful.”
- Aligns with Work Force Development Council career exploration (education).
- Provides the initial waiver for districts, yet is optional, includes criteria and provides oversight by DPI and the legislature (review committee members and legislative management).
- Provides for local control.
- Provides opportunities for students, encourages exploration by students, and may incentivize students since can receive credit.
- Encourages districts to be innovative.
- Could enhance social emotional learning (SEL).
- Includes grades six through twelve.
- Mirrors existing CTE program but does not replace nor interfere with the CTE Program.

This optional opportunity for districts would be beneficial for the students who choose to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of this legislation.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of House Bill 1478.