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HOUSE BILL NO. 1246

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Tran)

A BILL to require the Department of Special Education and Student Services at the Department of Education to convene a work group to provide input and recommendations relating to the procurement of accessible digital tools by local school divisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Department of Special Education and Student Services at the Department of Education shall convene a work group consisting of students who use accessible technology, parents of students who use accessible technology, teachers, special education administrators, division superintendents, school principals, representatives of school boards, representatives of disability advocacy groups, representatives of education technology vendors, representatives of firms or organizations that provide accessibility testing and that have proven expertise in the evaluation of education technology, representatives of special education teacher training programs with an advanced background in visual impairment, and any other stakeholder that it deems appropriate to provide input and recommendations to the Department of Education, the Board of Education, and the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2022, regarding (i) ways in which school divisions can effectively identify and receive responsive and responsible bids from vendors to procure digital tools, including online platforms, courses, digital applications, information and communication technology services, and digital content, that comply with the accessibility standard, as that term is defined in § 508(a)(2) of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794d(a)(2), and (ii) any statutory or regulatory changes that may assist school divisions to procure such digital tools that comply with the accessibility standard.

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