

HOUSE BILL NO. 2495

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Durant)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.8, relating to establishment of Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund and Program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-207.8 as follows:

§ 22.1-207.8. Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund and Program established.

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose, including funds directed from the Standards of Learning Algebra Readiness Initiative, and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of awarding grants pursuant to the Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Program established in subsection B. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Superintendent.

B. The Middle School Mathematics Innovation Zone Program (the Program) is hereby established for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis from the Fund to local school divisions to implement competency-based mathematics education and evidence-based mathematics learning models for students enrolled in grades six, seven, and eight in a public middle school. The Program shall be administered by the Department, and the Department shall, in addition to implementing the design

27 elements and adhering to the requirements and limitations set forth in subsection C, establish such
28 applications, rules, policies, procedures, and processes as it deems necessary or appropriate for the
29 administration of the Program. The Department shall give preference in the award of grants to schools
30 identified as in need of support.

31 C. The Program shall consist of the following design elements and shall be subject to the following
32 requirements and limitations:

33 1. The Department shall establish an application for a school division to receive a grant pursuant
34 to the Program and thereby designate a public middle school in the school division as a mathematics
35 innovation zone school (innovation zone school). Preference shall be given to serving public middle
36 schools identified as in need of support, including schools that demonstrate need based on data from the
37 immediately preceding school year on the grades five, six, and seven mathematics Standards of Learning
38 assessments, rural schools, and economically disadvantaged schools;

39 2. The Department shall establish quality criteria for and approve technical assistance providers to
40 partner with the designated innovation zone school to support professional learning in order to prepare the
41 innovation zone school for the shift toward a competency-based education model;

42 3. The Department shall establish quality criteria for and approve providers that enable schools to
43 implement personalized competency-based learning (Providers) to coordinate a partnership with
44 innovation zone schools. Providers are responsible for implementation of innovative learning models or
45 competency-based solutions in such innovation zone schools while sharing strategies to improve
46 instructional practice and student outcomes. The Department shall coordinate with each approved Provider
47 to ensure that high-quality competency-based instructional practices are identified and implemented;

48 4. A team within the Department, including an independent researcher, shall determine a method
49 for collecting evidence in order to validate the student outcomes in innovation zone schools. Approved
50 Providers and innovation zone schools shall collaborate to identify, subject to the approval of the
51 Department, a research organization to independently validate student outcomes in innovation zone
52 schools, consistent with the philosophy of personalized, competency-based learning;

