

1 SENATE BILL NO. 563

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

4 on February 8, 2024)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Hackworth)

6 A BILL to direct the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College
7 System, to study the feasibility of and make recommendations on developing a plan for
8 establishing in Planning District 2 a regional career and technical education program.

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

10 1. § 1. The Department of Education (the Department), in collaboration with the Virginia Community
11 College System (the System), the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, the Board of Education, the
12 school board and division superintendent of Tazewell County Public Schools, and representatives of the
13 governing boards of comprehensive community colleges located in Tazewell County and contiguous
14 counties, shall study the feasibility of and make recommendations on developing a plan for establishing a
15 regional career and technical education program for all children at grade levels six through 12 who reside
16 in Planning District 2, including children who reside in Planning District 2 who receive home instruction
17 in lieu of school attendance pursuant to § 22.1-254.1 of the Code of Virginia. In conducting its study and
18 making its recommendations, the Department shall (i) evaluate existing career and technical education
19 and other work-based learning offerings available to students enrolled in school divisions located in
20 Planning District 2 and identify underserved areas; (ii) evaluate the relative demand for such regional
21 career and technical education program among students enrolled in school divisions located in and
22 children receiving home instruction who reside in Planning District 2; (iii) study the feasibility of and
23 develop a plan for increasing the efficiency and reducing the cost of implementing such a regional career
24 and technical education program through maximizing resources available between Tazewell County
25 Public Schools, other school divisions located in Planning District 2, and comprehensive community
26 colleges located in or contiguous to Planning District 2, including considering (a) sharing any technology

27 or equipment that may be necessary, (b) ways to coordinate and share existing methods of transportation
28 to maximize accessibility to such program for students located in several school divisions as well as for
29 students receiving home instruction located in Planning District 2, and (c) the availability, if any, of
30 existing facilities or school infrastructure that may be utilized in establishing such program; and (iv)
31 developing a plan for satisfying staffing needs and ensuring that any programs offered through such
32 regional career and technical education program are taught by highly qualified faculty, including studying
33 strategies for recruiting qualified high school faculty and improving the flexibility of teaching such
34 programs for comprehensive community college faculty members. The Department shall submit to the
35 Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance and Appropriations and the House Committees
36 on Education and Appropriations a report on its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2024.

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