

SENATE BILL NO. 552

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

on February 8, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Peake)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-7.1:1, relating to Board of Education; guidance on best practices for open school enrollment policies.

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-7.1:1 as follows:**

**§ 22.1-7.1:1. Board; guidance on best practices for open school enrollment policies.**

The Board shall develop and make available to each school board guidance on best practices relating to open school enrollment policies as permitted pursuant to § 22.1-7.1. Such guidance shall detail best practices relating to:

1. The student application process, including an exemplar application;

2. The maintenance of a waitlist and for the random selection of applicants in the event that student applications exceed a given school's enrollment capacity or available seats by grade level;

3. Processes for reporting and making publicly available the open enrollment capacity of each school or program;

4. The prohibition against charging tuition or fees, in accordance with the provisions of § 22.1-5 and subdivision G 1 of 8VAC20-720-80, to any student who enrolls pursuant to an open enrollment policy;

5. Student transportation;

6. Processes for reviewing disciplinary actions that may disqualify students from utilizing the open school enrollment policy; and

7. The continued enrollment of students pursuant to an open school enrollment policy.

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