

HOUSE BILL NO. 625

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

on February 29, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Rasoul)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-199.7 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public education; community schools; Office of Community Schools at Department of Education; Community School Development and Implementation Planning Grant.

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

**1. That § 22.1-199.7 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 22.1-199.7. Community schools; interagency task force; Office of Community Schools at the Department; Community School Development and Implementation Planning Grant.**

A. As used in this section:

"Identified student" and "identified student percentage" have the same meanings as provided in § 22.1-207.4:1.

"Office" means the Office of Community Schools.

B. In order to remove nonacademic barriers to learning as a means to enhance student academic success in public elementary and secondary schools throughout the Commonwealth, the Department of Education shall establish an interagency task force composed of state and local agencies and entities in the areas of early childhood development, health, social services, community engagement, family engagement, higher education, communities in schools, and workforce development for the purpose of (i) developing a program for the establishment of community schools whereby public elementary and secondary schools serve as centers for the provision of such community programs and services to students and their families as may be necessary on the basis of unique needs of the student population to be served and (ii) developing and providing to the Governor, the Secretary of Education, local school boards, and other interested state, local, and private entities policy recommendations relating to the coordinated

27 delivery of community services to students and their families and the operation of community schools  
28 throughout the Commonwealth in accordance with the Virginia Community School Framework.

29 ~~B.~~C. The community schools program established pursuant to subsection ~~A.~~ B shall include a  
30 process by which school boards and community partnerships consisting of school boards and other  
31 community and service providers may apply to the Department ~~of Education~~ to designate an elementary  
32 or secondary school in the local school division as a community school. The application process shall  
33 include requirements for applicants to provide a plan for the sustainability of the community school and  
34 for the measurement of the success and effectiveness of the community school. The Department ~~of~~  
35 ~~Education~~ shall consult with the interagency task force established pursuant to subsection ~~A.~~ B in the  
36 selection of applications and the designation of community schools.

37 D. The Department shall establish the Office of Community Schools within the Department for  
38 the purpose of supporting the development and growth of community schools throughout the  
39 Commonwealth in accordance with the Virginia Community School Framework by collaborating with the  
40 interagency task force established pursuant to subsection B. Additionally, such Office shall be involved  
41 in assisting school leaders in the application for federal grant funds for their community school models  
42 and providing technical assistance to school personnel regarding effective practices and models for  
43 community schools.

44 E. Subject to the appropriation of funds, the Office shall establish and administer the Community  
45 School Development and Implementation Planning Grant for the purpose of providing grants to school  
46 boards that (i) seek to designate any school within the local school division as a community school and  
47 (ii) present a plan for the sustainable funding for such community school as part of the grant application  
48 to assist with the planning and implementation of such designation over a period of three to five years. In  
49 administering and awarding such funding so appropriated pursuant to such planning grant, the Office shall  
50 offer such funding to applicants for any public elementary or secondary school that is in the top 20 percent  
51 of public elementary or secondary schools in the Commonwealth for highest identified student percentage  
52 based on data from the immediately preceding school year.

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