

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to direct the State Board for Community Colleges, in consultation with the Virginia Department
2 of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to develop a two-year pilot
3 program to provide grants to community colleges to establish open education resource centers in
4 the Commonwealth.

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

6 **1. § 1. "Open education resources" means learning materials or resources whose copyrights have**
7 **expired, or that have been released with an intellectual property license that permits their free use or re-**
8 **purposing by others without the permission of the original authors or creators. Open education resources**
9 **(OER) includes items such as courses, course materials, textbooks, streaming video of classroom**
10 **lectures, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to transmit knowledge that**
11 **have an impact on teaching and learning.**

12 **§ 2. The State Board for Community Colleges shall, in consultation with the Virginia**
13 **Department of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, develop a competitive**
14 **grant pilot program to provide grants to community colleges to establish open education resource centers**
15 **in the Commonwealth. To qualify for a grant, community colleges shall be required to demonstrate a**
16 **partnership with faculty or staff from at least one local school division and one institution of higher**
17 **education in the Commonwealth.**

18 **The pilot program grant recipients shall be selected based upon a demonstration of their ability to**
19 **accomplish all of the following:**

20 **A. Develop and implement a model for the creation of OER course content that is pedagogically**
21 **sound and fully accessible, in compliance with the federal Americans With Disabilities Act (Public Law**
22 **101-336), by students with varying learning styles and disabilities.**

23 B. Develop two elementary, secondary, or community college courses using open education
24 resources. Courses developed for elementary or secondary schools shall meet the corresponding
25 Standards of Learning requirements for the subject areas of the course.

26 C. Develop a professional in-service training and development course that introduces faculty,
27 staff, and course developers to the concept, creation, content, and production methodologies that enable
28 open education resources to be offered to students in elementary, secondary, or community college
29 classes. The professional development course shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

30 1. Developing OER textbooks aligned to the Commonwealth's Standards of Learning;

31 2. Addressing issues relating to copyright and other intellectual property concepts;

32 3. Providing information on accessibility issues for students with disabilities;

33 4. Developing options that incorporate multiple learning styles and strategies; and

34 5. Building learner knowledge and skills that are necessary to find, adapt, repurpose, and create
35 accessible OER for use in the classroom.

36 D. Create or support an OER information repository to serve as a point of contact for information
37 about courses and course materials, research and production processes, and professional resources for
38 creating and repurposing OER.

39 E. Conduct a two-year formative and summative research study and evaluation that compares
40 OER with non-OER courses and materials with regard to quality and cost, and evaluates the efficacy of
41 the pilot program for statewide replication. The successful applicant shall contract with an independent
42 third party with expertise in evaluating educational content and curriculum development. The evaluation
43 shall include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the number of faculty and students that use OER in
44 their classes, the quality of their experiences compared to traditional courses, student performance,
45 potential cost savings, and the quality of OER and non-OER course materials. This evaluation shall be
46 submitted to the General Assembly no later than July 1, 2011.

47 F. Provide outreach to school districts and community colleges at regional and state educational
48 and technology conferences to support the establishment of local OER centers.

49 | G. Develop a sustainability plan and business model to fund the OER centers on an ongoing
50 | basis.

51 | **2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation of general**
52 | **funds effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriations act passed by**
53 | **the 2009 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law.**

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