

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to direct the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with the Virginia
2 Department of Education and the State Board for Community Colleges, to develop a two-year
3 pilot program to provide grants to community colleges to establish open education resource
4 centers in 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) include 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 Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall, in consultation with the Virginia
13 Department of Education and the State Board for Community Colleges, develop a competitive grant
14 pilot program to provide grants to community colleges to establish open education resources centers in
15 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, the obtaining of permission for use of material, and
32 other intellectual property concepts;
- 33 3. Information on accessibility issues for students with disabilities;
- 34 4. Delivery options that incorporate multiple learning styles and strategies; and
- 35 5. Building learner knowledge and skills that are necessary to find, adapt, repurpose, and create
36 accessible OER for use in the classroom.

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

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

48 F. Develop a sustainability plan and business model to fund the OER centers on an ongoing
49 basis.

50 G. Provide outreach to school districts and community colleges at regional and state educational
51 and technology conferences to support the establishment of local OER centers.

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

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