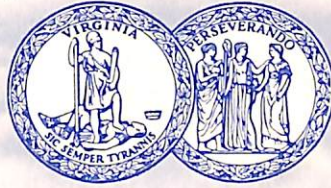


COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, 16

April 15, 1954

bb
Legislation

Mr. O. L. Emerick
Superintendent of Schools
Leesburg, Virginia

Dear Mr. Emerick:

We missed you at the Superintendents' Conference in Roanoke this week and I understood that you were absent due to a recent automobile accident. I sincerely hope that you are getting along fine and will soon be entirely well again.

I am enclosing herewith for your information a list of the bills affecting the public schools which were passed by the General Assembly of 1954 as given out at the Conference.

Very truly yours,

F. F. Jenkins, Director
Division of Research and Planning

FFJ/cs
Enc.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BILLS AFFECTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHICH
WERE PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1954

- H.B. No. 132 - Provides that in any construction contract in excess of \$2500, in which a school board is a party, the contractor must provide surety bond in a sum estimated to be the cost of the work. This is in fact a faithful performance contract bond which guarantees payment to all persons performing labor and furnishing materials.
- H.B. No. 177 - Prohibits the drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages in public schools or on school grounds. Copy of law to be posted in each school.
- H.B. No. 186 - Amends Section 22-67 to provide for the increase of salaries of members of county school boards in counties within designated population brackets.
(Emergency)
- H.B. No. 319 - Authorizes participation by banks in a school thrift or savings plan.
- H.B. No. 351 - Amends Section 22-97 adding to the powers and duties of city school boards a section to provide for consolidation of schools and transportation of pupils.
- H.B. No. 488 - Amends Section 22-72 adding to the powers and duties of school board members a provision for necessary insurance on school properties against loss by fire, etc.
- H.B. No. 531 - Repeals old and establishes new procedures for contesting the validity of bond issues.
(Emergency)
- H.B. No. 532 - Limits the bringing of action to contest the validity of taxes, etc., authorized for the purpose of the payment of certain bonds.
- H.B. No. 570 - Amends and clarifies Section 22-153 and Section 22-154, reducing the law to principles involved and providing that the State Board of Education shall prescribe regulations covering minimum floor and air space, minimum ventilating facilities and adequate lighting in school buildings.
- H.B. No. 587 - Amends Section 22-139.1 providing that there may be exempted from such taxes for debt service or a Literary loan or other loans on capital outlay property located in a special town school district which levies its own taxes for debt service and capital outlay.
- H.B. No. 595 - Changes from 1954 to 1956 the effective date of compulsory retirement at age 70 as provided in Section 51-111.54.

H.B. No. 624 - Provides that:

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall compile data concerning building costs, including materials, labor, etc., as well as types and advantages of different building materials, sending a copy thereof to each Superintendent of Schools.
2. Local school divisions shall consult with the Superintendent of Public Instruction before entering into any contract with an architect.
3. Local school boards shall consult with the Superintendent of Public Instruction concerning plans, materials, etc., prior to advertising for bids or letting of any construction contracts.
4. No State funds shall be expended until the local Superintendent has certified to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the consultations required in this section have been had.
5. No construction contract of a State-aid project shall be let except after competitive bidding.
6. No person or firm shall be eligible to bid on the construction of a project who has been engaged as architect or engineer on the same project.

The conditions of this act are mandatory in construction projects in which State grants or loans are involved and permissive in all other instances of construction.

H.B. No. 739 - Provides legislation to put into effect the amendment to Section 133 of the State Constitution which provides for a single school board in school divisions of more than one county or city.

H.B. No. 883 - Amends Section 22-112 to provide that the State Board is authorized in its discretion to fix the interest rate on all loans made from the Literary Fund after July 1, 1954, at not less than two per centum per annum, and not to exceed four per centum per annum.

HJR No. 34 - The VALC to make a study and report upon the practicability of school divisions employing teachers to serve more than one school.

HJR No. 75 - The State Board of Education is requested to investigate the means whereby under the present laws the counties, cities and towns can save on a portion of the architects' fees.

HJR No. 92 - It is the sense of the General Assembly that further appropriations for the public free schools should be distributed only on the basis of need, effort, and ability.

HJR No. 100 - The VALC to make a study and report upon methods to achieve greater economies in the operation of school bus transportation system and in the purchase of supplies and materials for the maintenance and operation of the public schools.

- S.B. No. 12 - Provides that no chairman of any political party shall be eligible to the office of Division Superintendent.
- S.B. No. 184 - Provides for a program of Special Education and creates an advisory council of nine members appointed by the Governor.
- S.B. No. 220 - Enabling legislation to put into effect the amendment to Section 115-A of the Constitution of Virginia, to provide that school boards of the several counties may borrow money from the Virginia Supplemental Retirement System.
- S.B. No. 278 - Clarifies and amends several sections of the Virginia School Laws as follows:

Section 22-7 - Amended to provide that school boards may condemn thirty acres of land for the establishment of a joint school, and clarifies the holding of title of such joint school property by towns operating as separate special school districts.

Section 22-33 - Amended to provide that a vacancy occurring during the regular term of office of a Division Superintendent of Schools shall be filled within sixty days from the date of such vacancy by the local school board, or thereafter by the State Board of Education.

Sections 22-43 and 22-43.1 - Amended to eliminate special town school districts abolished by law or which have become cities.

Section 22-62 - Amended to provide that the school trustee electoral board shall give notice before making any appointment to the membership of a county school board, whether for regular term or otherwise.

Section 22-98 - Amended to provide that the clerk of a city school board shall be bonded in the amount of not less than \$10,000.00.

Section 22-122 - Amended to provide that the school board shall approve the school budget before it is submitted to the tax levying body.

Section 22-204 - Amended to provide that substitute teachers not meeting the requirements for certification may be employed by local school boards and paid from special funds in accordance with regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education.

Section 22-218 - Amended to clarify the law governing the ages of children entering the primary grades by clearly defining semester entrance ages.

Section 22-223 - Amended to clarify the law governing the inclusion of certain children in the school census of counties and cities as required to be made every five years.

Section 22-253.1 - Amended to provide that city school boards may exempt from the compulsory attendance laws certain children fourteen years of age or over under prescribed conditions same as counties.

- S.B. No. 383 - Amends Section 22-21 by adding the provision that the State Board in its discretion may include provisions for standards for public and non-public kindergarten and nursery schools.
- SJR No. 6 - Amends Section 115-4 of the Constitution and provides that county school boards may borrow from the Virginia Supplemental Retirement System. This question goes to the voters of Virginia in November 1954.

RETIREMENT BILLS PASSED

- S.B. No. 102 - Raises minimum from \$720 to \$840 for those who retired under the old Teacher Pension Plan with 30 or more years of service in the case of service retirement or 20 or more years in case of disability and all retired under provisions of the repealed Virginia Retirement System with 30 or more years of service and have attained age 65 by July 1, 1954, or 20 or more years of service in the case of disability.
- S.B. No. 228 - Changes the formula for calculation of Virginia Supplemental Retirement System Benefits from use of the last 5 years to the five highest consecutive years.
- S.B. No. 325 - Allows you to leave contributions in system 10 years instead of 5 and allows those who left teaching under the repealed act during past 10 years who have returned, but had withdrawn money at end of 5 years because of old regulation, to pay back into system plus 3% interest compounded annually, and to receive prior credit. This action must be taken within two years of July 1, 1954. It does not allow those who did not leave their contributions in the system for the five years to be able to buy back into the system.