

HB 738 -- STUDENT STUDY PLANS

SPONSOR: Nasheed

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 6 to 0.

This bill requires each school district to ensure that every student develops a personal plan of study prior to the end of the student's eighth grade year to include graduation requirements, career or educational goals with course work to support them, career-related experiences, assessments necessary to revise the plan of study, and opportunities for a postsecondary experience. Plans will cover eight years or until the student reaches his or her postsecondary goals and must be reviewed at least annually by school personnel and the student's parents or guardians.

Each district must adopt all necessary policies to implement a comprehensive guidance and counseling program that focuses on career awareness in elementary school, exploration in middle school, and planning in high school. The school district's policies must include, but are not limited to, active participation of counselors, teachers, administrators, and parents in the development, review, and revision of the plans; adequate resources and training; adequate time and opportunity to implement the plans; access to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's web-based educational and career planning system; and opportunities for community involvement.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that personal plans of study help keep students focused on and moving toward a goal at an age when their attention may be slipping away from school. Some districts have similar plans in place, and the results have been good.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Nasheed; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.