



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB211

Bill Title: Department of Education; audit of education preparation programs at public institutions of higher education; science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction; frequency.

Bill Category: Academic Affairs

Bill Summary: Changes from once every seven years to biennially the frequency with which the Department of Education is required to audit each education preparation program for compliance with the requirements set forth in relevant law relating to student coursework and mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB284

Bill Title: Board of Education; criteria for initial renewable teacher licensure for certain individuals.

Bill Category: Academic Affairs

Bill Summary: Requires the Board of Education to issue an initial renewable license as a teacher to any applicant who (i) is enrolled in an accredited education preparation program at an institution of higher education in the Commonwealth; (ii) is recommended for such licensure by the dean of such education preparation program; (iii) has attempted, unsuccessfully, to obtain a qualifying score on the communication and literacy assessment prescribed by the Board; (iv) meets all other requirements for such license; and (v) meets any other criteria for the issuance of such license in such circumstances as may be established by the Board of Education.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB83

Bill Title: Comprehensive community colleges and school boards; dual enrollment agreements; parameters

Bill Category: Academic Affairs

Bill Summary: Requires dual enrollment agreements between comprehensive community colleges and school boards to permit any student to complete an associate degree, the Passport Program, or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies from a comprehensive community college concurrent with a high school diploma or high school equivalency program. Current law requires such agreements to specify options for students to complete an associate degree, the Passport Program, or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies from a comprehensive community college concurrent with a high school diploma.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB62

Bill Title: New College Institute; duties.

Bill Category: Academic Affairs

Bill Summary: Requires the New College Institute to design and implement, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Virginia Community College System, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, and other relevant agencies and organizations, any workforce development programs necessary to support the initiatives of the Office of the Governor, including adult education and workforce training programs.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB48

Bill Title: Public institutions of higher ed; admissions applications; legacy admissions and admissions based on donor status prohibited.

Bill Category: Admissions

Bill Summary: Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB46

Bill Title: Public institutions of higher ed; admissions applications; legacy admissions and admissions based on donor status prohibited.

Bill Category: Admissions

Bill Summary: Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB71

Bill Title: Public institutions of higher ed; admissions applications; legacy admissions and admissions based on donor status prohibited.

Bill Category: Admissions

Bill Summary: Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB242

Bill Title: Virginia Public Procurement Act; competitive negotiation; exceptions to contractual terms and conditions of the Request for Proposal.

Bill Category: Capital

Bill Summary: Removes the prohibition on a public body from requiring an offeror to state in a proposal any exception to any liability provisions contained in a Request for Proposal for information technology. The bill also requires an offeror to state any exception to any contractual terms or conditions in writing at the beginning of negotiations, which exception shall be considered during negotiations, but prohibits the public body from basing the scoring or evaluation on such exceptions when selecting offerors for negotiations. Current law only prohibits a public body from requiring an offeror to state in a proposal any exception to the liability provisions of the Request for Proposal. This bill is a recommendation from the Public Body Procurement Work Group.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB18

Bill Title: Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management & design-build contracting, applicability.

Bill Category: Capital

Bill Summary: States that design-bid-build, defined in the bill, utilizing competitive sealed bidding is the preferred method of procurement for construction services in the Commonwealth. Complex projects, defined in the bill, may request an exemption from the provisions of the bill and relevant law from the Division of Engineering and Buildings of the Department of General Services. The bill requires all documents related to the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and any available subcontractor opportunities to be posted on eVA. The bill transfers from the Department of General Services to the Division of Engineering and Buildings the authority to evaluate the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and specifies that a local governing body must approve at a public meeting the use of construction management or design-build by a local public body. Finally, the bill prohibits state public bodies, institutions of higher education, and local governing bodies from considering prior construction management or design-build experience of contractors on comparable projects.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB145

Bill Title: Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps established.

Bill Category: Fiscal

Bill Summary: Establishes the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps for the purposes of attracting and retaining public elementary and secondary school teachers in school divisions in the Commonwealth by awarding scholarships to students seeking to obtain teaching degrees and certifications at participating institutions and requiring such students upon completion of their degree or certificate to fill teaching positions for one year for each year of scholarship receipt at a high-need school, as defined pursuant to federal law. The bill also creates the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Scholarship Fund and Program for the purpose of funding such scholarships at the participating institutions of Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Radford University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Finally, the bill establishes the 12-member Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Commission to administer the Program and directs the Commission to begin meeting on or after September 1, 2024, and to establish the parameters for the Program and award the first scholarships prior to the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB207

Bill Title: Public institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established.

Bill Category: Fiscal

Bill Summary: Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student hunger at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student hunger, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student hunger at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program that shall include (i) the total number and amounts of grant awards, (ii) information about the impact that the Program has had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of higher education and reducing the number of students experiencing food insecurity, and (iii) recommendations regarding the potential establishment of an annual appropriation for the Program.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB366

Bill Title: Institutions of higher education; tuition grants; Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program.

Bill Category: Fiscal

Bill Summary: Makes several changes to the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including (i) making the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General, (ii) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester, (iii) simplifying the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing, and (iv) providing that any grant awarded shall be in an amount equivalent to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees at the institution of higher education less any other educational benefits for which an individual is eligible as a member of the National Guard.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB37

Bill Title: Loan repayment programs; mental health professionals.

Bill Category: Fiscal

Bill Summary: Creates a loan repayment program for persons who have worked as mental health professionals in the Commonwealth for at least five years.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB5

Bill Title: STEM+C Competition Team Grant Program and Fund; created and established.

Bill Category: Fiscal

Bill Summary: Establishes the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Computing (STEM+C) Competition Team Grant Program and Fund to encourage interest in STEM+C-related subject areas and support STEM+C-related extracurricular team-building activities in public schools in the Commonwealth by providing grants to qualified schools, as defined in the bill, for use in establishing or supporting STEM+C competition teams.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB16

Bill Title: Firearm or explosive material; carrying within Capitol Square and the surrounding area, etc.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Adds an exception for persons who have been issued a valid concealed handgun permit by the Commonwealth to the prohibition of carrying a firearm within Capitol Square and the surrounding area, any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any agency thereof, or any office where employees of the Commonwealth or any agency thereof are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB18

Bill Title: Hate crimes and discrimination; ethnic animosity, penalties.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Provides that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to safeguard all individuals within the Commonwealth from unlawful discrimination in employment and in places of public accommodation because of such individual's ethnic origin. The bill also adds victims who are intentionally selected because of their ethnic origin to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime involving assault, assault and battery, or trespass for the purpose of damaging another's property results in a higher criminal penalty for the offense. The bill also provides that no provider or user of an interactive computer service on the Internet shall be liable for any action voluntarily taken by it in good faith to restrict access to material that the provider or user considers to be intended to incite hatred on the basis of ethnic origin.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB311

Bill Title: Virginia Public Procurement Act; submissions of bids or proposals on the Commonwealth's electronic procurement system.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Mandates that all public bodies provide an option to submit bids or proposals for procurement contracts through the Commonwealth's statewide electronic procurement system, known as eVA. Current law only imposes such requirement on state public bodies.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB341

Bill Title: Virginia Public Procurement Act; consideration of employment of older Virginia residents.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Allows public bodies to include as a factor that will be used in evaluating a Request for Proposal the proposer's participation in programs that employ Virginia residents age 55 or older. The bill also provides that in the case of a tie bid between two or more bidders- both of which are eligible for a preference as a bidder for goods produced in Virginia or goods, services, or construction provided by Virginia persons, firms, or corporations-an additional preference shall be given to any bidder that participates in such programs.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB370

Bill Title: Employment; training and education; harassment and workplace discrimination.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Requires each employer with 50 or more employees, including the Commonwealth and its agencies, institutions, and political subdivisions, to provide annual interactive training and education regarding harassment and workplace discrimination, as both terms are defined in the bill, by July 1, 2025. The bill includes specific training and education requirements for supervisory and nonsupervisory employees, seasonal and temporary employees who are hired to work for less than six months, and migrant and seasonal agricultural workers. The training and education required under the bill must be provided by an educator or human resources professional with knowledge and expertise in the subject matter and must include a method for employees to electronically save a certificate of completion of such training and education. The bill requires the Department of Labor and Industry to make online courses for the required training available on its website beginning January 1, 2025.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB381

Bill Title: Virginia Public Procurement Act; participation by veteran-owned small businesses.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Requires all public bodies to include in their goals for participation by small businesses a minimum of five percent participation by veteran-owned businesses and service disabled veteran-owned businesses. Current law only requires a goal of three percent participation by service disabled veteran-owned businesses and does not impose such goal upon local public bodies. The bill also requires the Department of General Services to update the eVA portal to include a category for veteran-owned and service disabled veteran-owned small businesses that is conspicuous to the general public to easily display and search set-aside opportunities for such businesses.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HJ15

Bill Title: Study; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; offering reduced rate in-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth to dependents of public school instructional, administrative, and support personnel in the Commonwealth; report.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Requests the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the feasibility and efficacy of offering the dependents of public school instructional, administrative, and support personnel in the Commonwealth reduced rate in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth for the purpose of improving retention rates of public school instructional, administrative, and support personnel in the Commonwealth.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB36

Bill Title: Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of meetings.

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Exempts certain public meetings from the definition of "meeting" under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to clarify that three or more members of a public body may appear and participate in such public meeting without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB85

Bill Title: Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of "caregiver;" remote participation in meetings by persons with disabilities and caregivers; remote voting

Bill Category: SCHEV/State Agencies

Bill Summary: Provides that for purposes of determining whether a quorum is physically assembled, an individual member of a public body who is a person with a disability or a caregiver, defined in the bill, and uses remote participation counts toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present. The bill also provides that the participation policy adopted by a public body, as required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, shall not prohibit or restrict any individual member of a public body who is participating in an all-virtual meeting or who is using remote participation from voting on matters before the public body. The bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB163

Bill Title: Public institutions of higher education; student identification cards; contact information of certain emergency services required.

Bill Category: Student Affairs

Bill Summary: Requires each public institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to clearly print and conspicuously label on each student identification card, in addition to the "988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline," the contact information of the following emergency services: (i) the law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical services serving the geographical area in which such institution is located; (ii) the institution's campus police department and any additional security departments or services and emergency medical services or health departments available on campus; and (iii) the sexual assault crisis center or victim support service with which the institution entered into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to relevant law and the National Sexual Assault Hotline. The bill requires each such institution to annually review the required contact information to ensure that it is accurate and current.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB369

Bill Title: Institutions of higher education; sexual misconduct policies; civil penalty.

Bill Category: Student Affairs

Bill Summary: Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to appoint and convene a task force on combating sexual violence for the purpose of developing a base sexual misconduct campus climate survey to be distributed to institutions of higher education no less than annually. The bill defines "institution of higher education" as any public institution of higher education or any private institution of higher education. The bill permits each institution of higher education to append campus-specific questions to the base survey and, within 120 days after completion of the survey, requires each institution to submit a summary of the results to the Director of the Council and post a summary of the results on the institution's website in an easily accessible manner. The bill also requires survey data to be posted on the Council's website.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: SB21

Bill Title: Public institutions of higher education; policies; individuals with disabilities.

Bill Category: Student Affairs

Bill Summary: Requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy that makes certain documentation or evidence enumerated in the bill that is submitted by an enrolled or admitted student sufficient to establish that the student is an individual with a disability. The bill requires each such policy to include a transparent and explicit process by which the institution determines eligibility for accommodations for an individual with a disability and requires each such institution to disseminate information about such process to students, the parents of students as appropriate, and faculty in accessible formats, including during any student orientation, and make such information available on a conspicuous and publicly accessible page on the institution's website.



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Bill Number: HB19

Bill Title: Atlantic menhaden; VIMS, et al., to study ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance.

Bill Category: Studies

Bill Summary: Directs the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in collaboration with the Marine Resources Commission and certain stakeholders, as provided in the bill, to conduct a three-year study of the ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance of the Atlantic menhaden population in the waters of the Commonwealth. The bill requires VIMS to provide a report on its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources no later than October 1, 2027.