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HOUSE BILL NO. 1441

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23-7.4:5, relating to waivers of tuition and fees for certain education paraprofessionals.

Patrons—Hull, Amundson, Diamonstein and Hamilton

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23-7.4:5 as follows:

§ 23-7.4:5. Waiver of tuition and fees for certain education personnel.

A. The payment of tuition or fees, except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials, such as laboratory fees, shall be waived for a person who is a bona fide domiciliary of *Virginia, as defined in § 23-7.4, and who:*

1. Is enrolled as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student in an approved teacher education degree program in a public four-year institution of higher education in the Commonwealth;

2. Is employed by a local school board in the Commonwealth as an education paraprofessional for the entire term or semester for which such waiver of tuition and fees is sought;

3. Has completed at least two years of full-time employment as an education paraprofessional, as defined by State Council of Higher Education regulations, with a local school board in the *Commonwealth;*

4. Maintains the required grade point average established by the State Council; and

5. Meets the financial need requirements established by the State Council for the purposes of such

B. The State Council of Higher Education, in consultation with the Board of Education, shall establish regulations governing such waivers. The regulations shall include, but shall not be limited to, provisions addressing those education paraprofessional positions for which waivers may be obtained; financial need; verification of employment as an education paraprofessional; the grade point average required to retain such waiver; and procedures for the repayment of tuition and fees for failure to meet the requirements imposed by this section.