

2001 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 936

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 8, 2001

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23-38.56 and 23-38.60 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Senior Citizens Higher Education Act.

Patron—Howell

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 23-38.56 and 23-38.60 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23-38.56. Attendance at state institutions; conditions.

A senior citizen shall be permitted, under regulations as may be prescribed by the State Council of Higher Education:

(i) To register for and enroll in courses as a full-time or part-time student for academic credit if such senior citizen had a taxable individual income not exceeding ~~\$10,000~~ \$35,000 for Virginia income tax purposes for the year preceding the year in which enrollment is sought;

(ii) To register for and audit courses offered for academic credit; and

(iii) To register for and enroll in courses not offered for academic credit in any state institution of higher education in this Commonwealth.

Such senior citizen shall pay no tuition or fees except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials, such as laboratory fees, but shall be subject to the admission requirements of the institution and a determination by the institution of its ability to offer the course or courses for which the senior citizen registers. *Any fee charged for applications for admission shall, however, be waived for such senior citizens.*

The State Council of Higher Education shall establish procedures to ensure that tuition-paying students are accommodated in courses before senior citizens participating in this program are enrolled. However, the state institutions of higher education may make individual exceptions to these procedures when the senior citizen has completed seventy-five percent of the requirements for a degree.

§ 23-38.60. Determination of senior citizen status; forms.

The registrar or other admissions officer of an institution of higher learning shall determine whether a person is a senior citizen pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. Upon determination that a person qualifies as a senior citizen, the registrar or other admissions officer may require such person to execute appropriate forms to request the benefits provided by this chapter; *however, no fee shall be charged for the forms or for the filing of the forms to request such benefits.*

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