

Department of Planning and Budget
2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB1025E

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed

Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Houck

3. Committee Education

4. Title Approval of certain terms related to nonpublic institutions of higher education.

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill authorizes the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) to grant conditional approval to nonpublic institutions of higher education that use the terms "college," "university," and similar designation to operate in Virginia, and to add conditions to these prior approvals. Exceptions are those requests that included a request to use a name that incorporates certain terms deemed by SCHEV to be potentially misleading to consumers, students, or the general public regarding the particular institution's affiliation or association with any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth.

6. No Fiscal Impact

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: None

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Private and out-of-state institutions operating in the Commonwealth and SCHEV.

10. Technical amendment necessary: None

11. Other comments: SCHEV currently approves the use of the terms "college" and "university" within the Commonwealth. However, SCHEV does not have the authority to deny the use of certain terms in the names of private and out-of-state institutions operating in the Commonwealth that may have the potential to mislead consumers, students, or the general public regarding the private entity's affiliation or association with the public sector.

This legislation would provide additional consumer protections by ensuring that the names used by private and out-of-state institutions operating in the Commonwealth do not include terms such as "public university," "public college," or "community college" and thereby suggest that they are affiliated with "public" or state-supported institutions.

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