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SENATE BILL NO. 173

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 13, 2004

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23-276.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to regulation of certain private and out-of-state institutions of higher education.

Patron—Stolle

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 23-276.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 23-276.1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

"Certificate" or "diploma" means an award that is given for successful completion of a curriculum comprised of courses that may also be taken for degree credit and shall apply only to those awards given for coursework offered by institutions of higher education.

"College" means any institution of higher education that offers associate or baccalaureate level degree programs.

"Council" means the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

"Degree" means any earned award at the associate, baccalaureate, graduate, first professional or specialist levels that represents satisfactory completion of the requirements of a program or course of study or instruction beyond the secondary school level.

"Institution of higher education" means any person or entity, other than a Virginia state-supported institution of higher education named in § 23-9.5 or an educational institution declared a governmental instrumentality pursuant to § 23-14, that has received approval from the Council to (i) use the term "college" or "university," or words of like meaning, in its name or in any manner in connection with its academic affairs or business; (ii) enroll students; or (iii) offer approved courses for degree credit or programs of study leading to a degree or to offer degrees either at a site in Virginia or via telecommunications equipment located within Virginia.

"Multistate compact" means any agreement involving two or more states to offer jointly postsecondary educational opportunities, pursuant to policies and procedures set forth by such agreement and approved by the Council.

"Postsecondary school" or "school" means an institution offering a curriculum or course of study in a discipline or interdisciplinary area that leads to a degree, certificate, or diploma.

"Program" means a curriculum or course of study in a discipline or interdisciplinary area that leads to a degree, certificate, or diploma.

"Program area" means a general group of disciplines in which one or more degree programs, certificates, or diplomas may be offered.

"University" means any institution offering programs leading to degrees or degree credit beyond the baccalaureate level.

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