

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 23 a chapter numbered 4.4:5, consisting of sections numbered 23-38.53:21 through 23-38.53:24, and by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 34, consisting of sections numbered 30-226 through 30-231, relating to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program and Fund.

[S 230]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 23 a chapter numbered 4.4:5, consisting of sections numbered 23-38.53:21 through 23-38.53:24, and by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 34, consisting of sections numbered 30-226 through 30-231, as follows:

CHAPTER 4.4:5.

BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND FUND.

§ 23-38.53:21. Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program created; purpose; State Council of Higher Education to administer.

There is hereby created, from such funds made available for this purpose, the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program, hereinafter referred to as the "Program." The Program shall be established for the purpose of assisting students who were enrolled in the public schools of Virginia between 1954 and 1964, in jurisdictions in which such public schools were closed to avoid desegregation. The State Council of Higher Education shall administer the Program in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and as may be prescribed by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Awards Committee.

§ 23-38.53:22. Criteria for awarding scholarships; awards made by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee; eligible students.

A. Within the funds made available for such purposes, scholarships shall be awarded annually and may be renewed upon evidence of satisfactory academic achievement. Awards may be granted for part-time or full-time attendance for (i) no more than one year of study for students enrolled in adult education programs and General Education Development preparation programs, (ii) no more than two years of study for students enrolled in comprehensive community college programs, (iii) no more than four years of study for students enrolled in four-year undergraduate degree programs, and (iv) no more than five years of study for students enrolled in recognized five-year undergraduate programs.

B. Only students who are domiciled residents of Virginia as defined by § 23-7.4 shall be eligible to receive such awards.

C. Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students by the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Awards Committee.

D. For the purpose of this chapter, "eligible student" means a person who resided in a jurisdiction in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 in which the public schools were closed to avoid desegregation and who (i) was unable during such years to (a) begin, continue, or complete his education in the public schools of the Commonwealth, (b) attend a private academy or foundation, whether in state or out of state, established to circumvent desegregation, or (c) pursue postsecondary education opportunities or training because of the inability to obtain a high school diploma; or (ii) was required to relocate within or outside of the Commonwealth to begin, continue, or complete his K-12 education during such years because of public school closings to avoid desegregation.

§ 23-38.53:23. Amount of scholarships; use of scholarships; terms and conditions.

A. No scholarship awarded under this Program shall exceed the cost per year of the specific program in which the student is enrolled. The amounts of scholarships awarded under this Program shall be in accordance with the appropriation act.

B. The full amount of each scholarship awarded to each recipient shall be used only for payment of charges for tuition.

C. This chapter shall not be construed as creating any legally enforceable right or entitlement on the part of any person or any right or entitlement in participation in the program. Scholarships shall be awarded to the extent funds are made available or as directed by the appropriation act.

§ 23-38.53:24. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program Fund, hereafter referred to as the "Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller and shall consist of any appropriations, gifts, donations, grants, bequests, or other funds from any source as may be received by the Brown v.

57 Board of Education Scholarship Program or the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Awards
 58 Committee on behalf of the Program. Moneys shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the
 59 Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any
 60 moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert
 61 to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the
 62 purposes of awarding to qualified students, pursuant to §§ 23-38.53:21 and 23-38.53:22. Expenditures
 63 and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the
 64 Comptroller upon written request signed by the chairman of the State Council of Higher Education for
 65 Virginia.

66 CHAPTER 34.

67 BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS COMMITTEE.

68 § 30-226. Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Awards Committee established; membership;
 69 terms; vacancies; chairman and vice chairman.

70 A. There is hereby established in the legislative branch of state government, the Brown v. Board of
 71 Education Scholarship Awards Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee," to evaluate
 72 applications for and select recipients of the Brown v. Board of Education scholarships, in accordance
 73 with the provisions of Chapter 4.4:5 (§ 23-38.53:21 et seq.) of Title 23.

74 B. The Committee shall consist of 11 members that includes six legislative members and five
 75 nonlegislative citizen members. Members shall be appointed as follows: four members of the House of
 76 Delegates and two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Joint Rules Committee; and five
 77 nonlegislative citizen members of whom one shall represent college admissions personnel, one shall have
 78 expertise in academic and career counseling, and three shall represent residents of the affected
 79 jurisdictions, to be appointed by the Governor. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Committee shall be
 80 citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the
 81 Committee and the Joint Rules Committee, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for
 82 travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending
 83 meetings.

84 C. Legislative members of the Committee shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.
 85 Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of two years. Appointments to fill
 86 vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Legislative and
 87 nonlegislative citizen members may be reappointed. However, no House member shall serve more than
 88 four consecutive two-year terms, no Senate member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year
 89 terms, and no nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than four consecutive two-year terms. The
 90 remainder of any term to which a nonlegislative citizen member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not
 91 constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in
 92 the same manner as the original appointments.

93 The Committee shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership, who shall be
 94 members of the General Assembly.

95 § 30-227. Quorum; meetings; voting on recommendations.

96 A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall meet not more
 97 than four times each year. The meetings of the Committee shall be held at the call of the chairman or
 98 whenever the majority of the voting members so request. At the option of a majority of the members of
 99 the House of Delegates appointed to the Committee or a majority of the Senate members appointed to
 100 the Committee, no recommendation of the Committee shall be adopted without the approval of a
 101 majority of such members of the House of Delegates and a majority of such members of the Senate. For
 102 the purpose of this provision, a "majority" constitutes a majority of the members present and voting at
 103 the meeting of the Committee.

104 § 30-228. Compensation; expenses.

105 Legislative members of the Committee shall receive such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12,
 106 and nonlegislative citizen members shall receive such compensation for the performance of their duties
 107 as provided in § 2.2-2813. All members shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses
 108 incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. However, all such
 109 compensation and expenses shall be paid from existing appropriations to the Committee, or if unfunded,
 110 shall be approved by the Joint Rules Committee.

111 § 30-229. Powers and duties of the Committee.

112 The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

113 1. Establish criteria for the awarding of scholarships, including, but not limited to, eligibility for and
 114 the renewal of scholarships, including evidence of satisfactory academic achievement in accordance with
 115 § 23-38.53:22, terms and conditions of scholarships awarded pursuant to § 23-38.53:23, and the
 116 conditions for which repayment of scholarships, or any part thereof, may be required;

117 2. Evaluate applications for and select recipients of the Brown v. Board of Education scholarships,

118 in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4.4:5 (§ 23-38.53:21 et seq.) of Title 23;
119 3. Determine annually the appropriations made available for such scholarships by the General
120 Assembly in the appropriation act and set the maximum number of scholarships that may be awarded in
121 any year;
122 4. Make the first awards of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program to eligible
123 students between July 1, 2004, and July 1, 2006, but no later than July 1, 2006;
124 5. Establish standards to ensure that the Program is implemented and administered in a manner that
125 preserves the purposes for which it was created; and
126 6. Perform such other duties, functions, and activities as may be necessary to facilitate and
127 implement the objectives of Chapter 4.4:5 (§ 23-38.53:21 et seq.) of Title 23 and this chapter.
128 § 30-230. Staffing.
129 The Office of the Clerk of the chairman of the Committee shall provide administrative staff support.
130 The Division of Legislative Services shall provide legal, research, policy analysis and other services as
131 requested by the Committee. The State Council of Higher Education shall provide technical assistance to
132 the Committee and administer the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program, pursuant to
133 § 23-38.53:21. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Committee, upon
134 request.
135 § 30-231. Chairman's executive summary of activity and work of the Committee.
136 The chairman shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual executive summary
137 of the interim activity and work of the Committee no later than the first day of each regular session of
138 the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Committee intends to submit to
139 the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as
140 a state document. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the
141 Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and
142 shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.
143 2. That the educational terms used in this act shall be construed as defined in Titles 22.1, 23, and
144 40.1 of the Code of Virginia.
145 3. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2008.