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HOUSE BILL NO. 2188

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 11, 2005

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23-220.01 of the Code of Virginia, relating to an annual appropriation to the Virginia Vocational Incentive Scholarship Program for Shipyard Workers Fund for scholarships for shipyard workers enrolled in certain academic programs.

Patron—Wardrup

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 23-220.01 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 23-220.01. Apprenticeship program for employees of ship manufacturing and ship repair companies; fund.

A. For purposes of this section:

"Apprenticeship program" means a three-year program combining educational instruction and on-the-job training that is established for the purpose of enhancing the education and skills of shipyard workers.

"College" means the Tidewater Community College.

"Industrial applied sciences" may include applied sciences such as welding, burning, blasting, and other applied sciences.

"Shipyard worker" means any employee employed full time on a salaried or wage basis, whose tenure is not restricted as to temporary or provisional appointment, at a ship manufacturing or ship repair company located in the Commonwealth.

B. Subject to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's authority to approve or disapprove all new academic programs as provided in subdivision 5 of § 23-9.6:1, the college may offer a three-year program of educational instruction that incorporates instruction in industrial applied sciences. An Associate in Applied Science Degree shall be conferred on any person successfully completing such academic program. The college may coordinate such academic program with an apprenticeship program offered to shipyard workers by their employers.

C. There is hereby created the Virginia Vocational Incentive Scholarship Program for Shipyard Workers to provide scholarships to shipyard workers enrolled at the college in such academic program.

Beginning in the calendar year that the Council approves such academic program and for calendar years thereafter, shipyard workers who are (i) domiciled residents of Virginia as described in § 23-7.4 and (ii) enrolled as full- or part-time students in such academic program, shall be eligible for scholarships for such program. Renewal of the scholarships of such shipyard workers shall be contingent upon maintaining (a) enrollment in such academic program, (b) a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent at the completion of each academic year, and (c) full-time employment as a shipyard worker.

~~D.~~ Before any scholarship is awarded in accordance with the provisions of this ~~section~~ subsection, the scholarship recipient shall sign a promissory note under which he agrees (i) to continue full-time employment as a shipyard worker until his graduation and (ii) upon graduation, to work continuously as a shipyard worker for the same number of years that he was the beneficiary of such scholarship. The State Council may recover the total amount of funds awarded as a scholarship, or the appropriate portion thereof, including any accrued interest, if the scholarship recipient fails to honor such requirements.

~~E. There is hereby created the Virginia Vocational Incentive Scholarship Program for Shipyard Workers to provide scholarships to shipyard workers enrolled at the college in such academic program.~~

F. From such funds as are appropriated for this purpose as provided herein and from such gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf, there is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Vocational Incentive Scholarship Program for Shipyard Workers Fund, hereafter referred to as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Funds may be paid to the college on behalf of shipyard workers who have been awarded scholarships pursuant to subsection C. Funds may also be used for the administration and implementation of such academic program and/or the apprenticeship program.

In each fiscal year, the General Assembly shall appropriate \$150,000 to the Fund to be used for

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59 *scholarships for shipyard workers pursuant to subsection C; however, the amount appropriated in each*
60 *fiscal year when added to the beginning balance in the Fund on July 1 of the applicable fiscal year*
61 *shall not exceed \$200,000. Such amounts required herein shall be appropriated to the Fund no later*
62 *than August 1 of each fiscal year.*

63 Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants
64 issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director of the State Council of Higher
65 Education for Virginia.

66 ~~G~~D. The Council shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this
67 section and shall award scholarships to eligible students for no more than three academic years.
68 Scholarship amounts shall not exceed full tuition and required fees relating to such academic program.