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SENATE BILL NO. 983

Offered January 10, 2007

Prefiled January 9, 2007

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 16 of Title 23 an article numbered 2.1, consisting of sections numbered 23-220.5 through 23-220.7, relating to the Community College Scholarship Match Program.*

Patron—Edwards

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 16 of Title 23 an article numbered 2.1, consisting of sections numbered 23-220.5 through 23-220.7, as follows:

*Article 2.1.**Community College Scholarship Match Program.*

§ 23-220.5. *Community College Scholarship Match Program created.*

There is hereby created the Community College Scholarship Match Program to provide matching scholarships to students receiving partial tuition scholarships to comprehensive community colleges in Virginia. Funds may be paid to any comprehensive community college on behalf of students who have been awarded such scholarships pursuant to § 23-220.7.

§ 23-220.6. *Community College Scholarship Match Fund.*

A. From such funds as are appropriated for this purpose 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 Community College Scholarship Match 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 any comprehensive community college on behalf of students who have been awarded scholarships pursuant to § 23-220.7. The first such scholarships shall be awarded after July 1, 2007.

Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the State Board for Community Colleges.

B. The Board shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this article and shall award scholarships to eligible students meeting the criteria established pursuant to § 23-220.7.

§ 23-220.7. *Eligible students; criteria for award of matching scholarships.*

A. Only students who (i) are domiciled residents of Virginia as defined by § 23-7.4, (ii) graduated from a public or private Virginia high school, and (iii) have received a privately-funded partial scholarship to a comprehensive community college in Virginia shall be eligible for scholarships pursuant to this article.

B. Scholarships awarded pursuant to this article shall be in an amount as determined by the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, from such funds as are appropriated, for the payment of tuition and fees for enrollment for one year.

C. Scholarships awarded pursuant to this article are renewable for one year, provided the student maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

INTRODUCED

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