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HOUSE BILL NO. 1924

House Amendments in [] — January 28, 2009

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23-7.4:6, relating to tuition grants at public two-year institutions of higher education for certain commercial fishermen.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Lewis

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23-7.4:6 as follows:

§ 23-7.4:6. Grants for tuition and fees for certain commercial fishermen.

A. The payment of tuition or fees, except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials, such as laboratory fees, shall be provided for a person who is a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia, as defined in 23-7.4, and who:

1. Is a Virginia waterman holding a valid Virginia commercial crabbing license that has incurred adverse economic impacts as determined by the U.S. Dept of Commerce Blue Crab Commercial Fishery Failure Declaration;

2. Is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment in a degree or certificate program of at least one academic year in length in a public two-year institution of higher education in the Commonwealth;

3. Has not been enrolled in postsecondary education as a full-time student for more than three years;

4. Has submitted applications for federal student financial aid programs for which he may be eligible; and

5. Is not in default of a federal educational loan or student loan made or guaranteed by Virginia.

The State Board for Community Colleges, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education and the Department of Social Services, shall establish regulations governing such grants.

2. That the provisions of this act shall be contingent upon funds from the federal relief package associated with the U.S. Dept of Commerce Blue Crab Commercial Fishery Failure Declaration being made available to cover the [full] cost of these tuition grants.

[3. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2012.]

ENGROSSED

HB1924E