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SENATE BILL NO. 735

Offered February 4, 2010

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 23-7.4:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to in-state tuition for certain National Guard members.*

Patrons—Barker, Blevins, Colgan, Deeds, Edwards, Hanger, Herring, Houck, Howell, Hurt, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Marsh, Martin, McDougle, McEachin, McWaters, Miller, J.C., Newman, Norment, Northam, Petersen, Puckett, Puller, Quayle, Reynolds, Ruff, Saslaw, Smith, Stosch, Stuart, Ticer, Vogel, Wagner, Wampler, Watkins and Whipple; Delegates: Anderson, Barlow, Bell, Richard P., Brink, Greason, May and Stolle

Unanimous consent to introduce

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23-7.4:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23-7.4:2. Eligibility for in-state or reduced tuition for students not domiciled in Virginia; tuition grants and in-state tuition for members of the National Guard.

A. Students who live outside this Commonwealth and have been employed full time inside Virginia for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement for in-state tuition shall be eligible for in-state tuition charges if such student has paid Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in this Commonwealth for the tax year prior to the date of the alleged entitlement. Students claimed as dependents for federal and Virginia income tax purposes who live outside this Commonwealth shall become eligible for in-state tuition charges if the nonresident parents claiming them as dependents have been employed full time inside Virginia for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement and paid Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in this Commonwealth for the tax year prior to the date of the alleged entitlement. Such students shall continue to be eligible for in-state tuition charges for so long as they or their qualifying parent is employed full time in Virginia, paying Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in this Commonwealth and the student is claimed as a dependent for Virginia and federal income tax purposes.

B. Any person who (i) is a member of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Virginia and has a minimum remaining obligation of two years, (ii) has satisfactorily completed required initial active duty service, (iii) is satisfactorily performing duty in accordance with regulations of the National Guard, and (iv) is enrolled in any state institution of higher education, any private, accredited and nonprofit institution of higher education in the Commonwealth whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate or graduate education and not to provide religious training or theological education, any course or program offered by any such institution or any public career and technical education school shall be eligible for a grant in the amount of the difference between the full cost of tuition and any other educational benefits for which he is eligible as a member of the National Guard. Application for a grant shall be made to the Department of Military Affairs. Grants shall be awarded from funds available for the purpose by such Department.

Notwithstanding the foregoing requirement that a member of the National Guard have a minimum of two years remaining on his service obligation, if a member is activated or deployed for federal military service, an additional day shall be added to the member's eligibility for the grant for each day of active federal service up to 365 days. Additional credit, or credit for state duty, may be given at the discretion of the Adjutant General.

In addition, any person who met the requirements for in-state tuition prior to being called to active duty in the National Guard of another state shall be eligible for in-state tuition following completion of active duty service if during active duty that person maintained one or more of the following in Virginia, rather than in another state or jurisdiction: a driver's license, motor vehicle registration, voter registration, employment, property ownership, or sources of financial support.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 23-7.4 or any other provision of the law to the contrary, the governing board of any state institution of higher education or the governing board of the Virginia Community College System may charge the same tuition as is charged to any person domiciled in Virginia pursuant to the provisions of § 23-7.4 to:

1. Any person enrolled in one of the institution's programs designated by the State Council of Higher Education who is domiciled in and is entitled to reduced tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in any state which is a party to the Southern Regional Education Compact which has similar

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55 reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia;

56 2. Any student from a foreign country who is enrolled in a foreign exchange program approved by
57 the state institution during the same period that an exchange student from the same state institution, who
58 is entitled to in-state tuition pursuant to § 23-7.4, is attending the foreign institution; and

59 3. Any high school or magnet school student, not otherwise qualified for in-state tuition, who is
60 enrolled in courses specifically designed as part of the high school or magnet school curriculum in a
61 community college for which he may, upon successful completion, receive high school and community
62 college credit pursuant to a dual enrollment agreement between the high school or magnet school and
63 the community college.

64 D. The governing board of the Virginia Community College System shall charge in-state tuition to
65 any person enrolled in one of the System's institutions who lives within a 30-mile radius of a Virginia
66 institution, is domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning
67 in any state which is contiguous to Virginia and which has similar reciprocal provisions for persons
68 domiciled in Virginia.

69 Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as
70 in-state students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee
71 revenue policies.

72 E. The board of the University of Virginia's College at Wise and the board of visitors of the
73 University of Virginia may charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled at the University of Virginia's
74 College at Wise who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is
75 domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Kentucky,
76 if Kentucky has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia.

77 In addition, the board of the University of Virginia's College at Wise and the board of visitors of the
78 University of Virginia may charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled at the University of Virginia's
79 College at Wise who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is
80 domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Tennessee,
81 if Tennessee has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia. The board of the
82 University of Virginia's College at Wise and its partners or associates offering programs jointly at a
83 regional off-campus center may also charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled in such joint
84 programs who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is domiciled
85 in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Tennessee, if
86 Tennessee has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia. Any such respective
87 partners or associates shall establish and charge separately tuition rates for their independent classes or
88 programs at such regional centers.

89 Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection and subsection D shall
90 be counted as out-of-state students for the purposes of determining admissions, enrollment, and tuition
91 and fee revenue policies.

92 F. Public institutions of higher education may enter into special arrangement contracts with Virginia
93 employers or authorities controlling federal installations or agencies located in Virginia. The special
94 arrangement contracts shall be for the purpose of providing reduced rate tuition charges for the
95 employees of the Virginia employers or federal personnel when the employers or federal authorities are
96 assuming the liability for paying, to the extent permitted by federal law, the tuition for the employees or
97 personnel in question and the employees or personnel are classified by the requirements of this section
98 as out-of-state.

99 Special arrangement contracts with Virginia employers or federal installations or agencies may be for
100 group instruction in facilities provided by the employer or federal authority or in the institution's
101 facilities or on a student-by-student basis for specific employment-related programs.

102 Special arrangement contracts shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years and shall be
103 reviewed for legal sufficiency by the Office of the Attorney General prior to signing. All rates agreed to
104 by the public institutions shall be at least equal to in-state tuition and shall only be granted by the
105 institution with which the employer or the federal authorities have a valid contract for students for
106 whom the employer or federal authorities are paying the tuition charges.

107 All special arrangement contracts with authorities controlling federal installations or agencies shall
108 include a specific number of students to be served at reduced rates.

109 Nothing in this subsection shall change the domiciliary status of any student for the purposes of
110 enrollment reporting or calculating the proportions of general funds and tuition and fees contributed to
111 the cost of education.

112 G. Any active duty members, activated guard or reservist members, or guard or reservist members
113 mobilized or on temporary active orders for six months or more, that are either stationed or assigned by
114 their military service to a work location in Virginia, and residing in Virginia, shall pay tuition, to the
115 public institution of higher education in which they are enrolled, in an amount no more than the
116 institution's in-state tuition rate.

- 117 2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.
118 3. That the provisions of this act shall apply to any person enrolled in any course or program not
119 completed on the effective date of the act.

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