2011 SESSION

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[S 1439]

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VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend and reenact § 23-38.12 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Tuition Assistance 3 Grant Program.

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Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia: 6

7 1. That § 23-38.12 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows: 8

§ 23-38.12. Program of tuition assistance established.

9 There is hereby established, from funds provided by law, a program of tuition assistance in the form 10 of grants, as hereinafter provided, to or on behalf of bona fide residents of Virginia who attend private, accredited and nonprofit institutions of collegiate education in the Commonwealth whose primary 11 purpose is to provide collegiate, graduate, or professional education and not to provide religious training 12 13 or theological education. Eligible institutions not admitted to this program before January 1, 2011, shall also (i) be formed, chartered, established, or incorporated within the Commonwealth; (ii) have their 14 15 principal place of business within the Commonwealth; (iii) conduct their primary educational activity within the Commonwealth; and (iv) be accredited by an nationally recognized regional accrediting 16 agency. Individuals who have failed to meet the federal requirement to register for the Selective Service 17 shall not be eligible to receive these grants. However, a person who has failed to register for the 18 19 Selective Service shall not be denied a right, privilege, or benefit under this section if: (i) the 20 requirement to so register has terminated or become inapplicable to the person and (ii) the person shows 21 by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to register was not a knowing and willful failure to 22 register. The State Council of Higher Education shall be assisted in enforcing this provision by the 23 private institutions of higher education whose students benefit from this program. Unless otherwise 24 indicated, as used in this chapter "accredited" means any institution approved to confer degrees pursuant 25 to Chapter 21.1 (§ 23-276.1 et seq.) of this title.

26 For the purposes of this section, the "principal place of business" of a nonprofit institution of 27 collegiate education means the single state in which the natural persons who establish policy for the 28 direction, control, and coordination of the operations of the institution as a whole primarily exercise 29 that function, considering the following factors: (1) the state in which the primary executive and 30 administrative offices of the institution are located; (2) the state in which the principal office of the 31 chief executive officer of the institution is located; (3) the state in which the board of trustees, or similar governing person or persons, of the institution conducts a majority of its meetings; and (4) the state 32 from which the overall operations of the institution are directed. 33