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**HOUSE BILL NO. 321**

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 10, 2012

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-402 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 an article numbered 13.3, consisting of sections numbered 58.1-439.25 through 58.1-439.28, relating to Education Improvement Scholarships tax credits.*

Patrons—Massie, Greason, Albo, Anderson, Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Byron, Cline, Cole, Comstock, Cosgrove, Cox, J.A., Cox, M.K., Fariss, Farrell, Garrett, Gilbert, Habeeb, Head, Helsel, Hodges, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Iaquinto, Ingram, Jones, Kilgore, Knight, Landes, LeMunyon, Lingamfelter, Loupassi, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., May, Minchew, Morris, O'Bannon, Orrock, Peace, Pogge, Poindexter, Purkey, Putney, Ramadan, Ransone, Robinson, Rush, Sherwood, Stolle, Tata, Villanueva, Watson, Webert, Wilt and Yancey; Senator: Obenshain

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 58.1-402 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 an article numbered 13.3, consisting of sections numbered 58.1-439.25 through 58.1-439.28, as follows:**

§ 58.1-402. Virginia taxable income.

A. For purposes of this article, Virginia taxable income for a taxable year means the federal taxable income and any other income taxable to the corporation under federal law for such year of a corporation adjusted as provided in subsections B, C, D, and E.

For a regulated investment company and a real estate investment trust, such term means the "investment company taxable income" and "real estate investment trust taxable income," respectively, to which shall be added in each case any amount of capital gains and any other income taxable to the corporation under federal law which shall be further adjusted as provided in subsections B, C, D, and E.

B. There shall be added to the extent excluded from federal taxable income:

1. Interest, less related expenses to the extent not deducted in determining federal taxable income, on obligations of any state other than Virginia, or of a political subdivision of any such other state unless created by compact or agreement to which the Commonwealth is a party;

2. Interest or dividends, less related expenses to the extent not deducted in determining federal taxable income, on obligations or securities of any authority, commission or instrumentality of the United States, which the laws of the United States exempt from federal income tax but not from state income taxes;

3. [Repealed.]

4. The amount of any net income taxes and other taxes, including franchise and excise taxes, which are based on, measured by, or computed with reference to net income, imposed by the Commonwealth or any other taxing jurisdiction, to the extent deducted in determining federal taxable income;

5. Unrelated business taxable income as defined by § 512 of the Internal Revenue Code;

6. [Repealed.]

7. The amount required to be included in income for the purpose of computing the partial tax on an accumulation distribution pursuant to § 667 of the Internal Revenue Code;

8. a. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2004, the amount of any intangible expenses and costs directly or indirectly paid, accrued, or incurred to, or in connection directly or indirectly with one or more direct or indirect transactions with one or more related members to the extent such expenses and costs were deductible or deducted in computing federal taxable income for Virginia purposes. This addition shall not be required for any portion of the intangible expenses and costs if one of the following applies:

(1) The corresponding item of income received by the related member is subject to a tax based on or measured by net income or capital imposed by Virginia, another state, or a foreign government that has entered into a comprehensive tax treaty with the United States government;

(2) The related member derives at least one-third of its gross revenues from the licensing of intangible property to parties who are not related members, and the transaction giving rise to the expenses and costs between the corporation and the related member was made at rates and terms comparable to the rates and terms of agreements that the related member has entered into with parties who are not related members for the licensing of intangible property; or

(3) The corporation can establish to the satisfaction of the Tax Commissioner that the intangible

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54 expenses and costs meet both of the following: (i) the related member during the same taxable year  
55 directly or indirectly paid, accrued or incurred such portion to a person who is not a related member,  
56 and (ii) the transaction giving rise to the intangible expenses and costs between the corporation and the  
57 related member did not have as a principal purpose the avoidance of any portion of the tax due under  
58 this chapter.

59 b. A corporation required to add to its federal taxable income intangible expenses and costs pursuant  
60 to subdivision a may petition the Tax Commissioner, after filing the related income tax return for the  
61 taxable year and remitting to the Tax Commissioner all taxes, penalties, and interest due under this  
62 article for such taxable year including tax upon any amount of intangible expenses and costs required to  
63 be added to federal taxable income pursuant to subdivision a, to consider evidence relating to the  
64 transaction or transactions between the corporation and a related member or members that resulted in the  
65 corporation's taxable income being increased, as required under subdivision a, for such intangible  
66 expenses and costs.

67 If the corporation can demonstrate to the Tax Commissioner's sole satisfaction, by clear and  
68 convincing evidence, that the transaction or transactions between the corporation and a related member  
69 or members resulting in such increase in taxable income pursuant to subdivision a had a valid business  
70 purpose other than the avoidance or reduction of the tax due under this chapter, the Tax Commissioner  
71 shall permit the corporation to file an amended return. For purposes of such amended return, the  
72 requirements of subdivision a shall not apply to any transaction for which the Tax Commissioner is  
73 satisfied (and has identified) that the transaction had a valid business purpose other than the avoidance  
74 or reduction of the tax due under this chapter. Such amended return shall be filed by the corporation  
75 within one year of the written permission granted by the Tax Commissioner and any refund of the tax  
76 imposed under this article shall include interest at a rate equal to the rate of interest established under  
77 § 58.1-15 and such interest shall accrue as provided under § 58.1-1833. However, upon the filing of  
78 such amended return, any related member of the corporation that subtracted from taxable income  
79 amounts received pursuant to subdivision C 21 shall be subject to the tax imposed under this article on  
80 that portion of such amounts for which the corporation has filed an amended return pursuant to this  
81 subdivision. In addition, for such transactions identified by the Tax Commissioner herein by which he  
82 has been satisfied by clear and convincing evidence, the Tax Commissioner may permit the corporation  
83 in filing income tax returns for subsequent taxable years to deduct the related intangible expenses and  
84 costs without making the adjustment under subdivision a.

85 The Tax Commissioner may charge a fee for all direct and indirect costs relating to the review of  
86 any petition pursuant to this subdivision, to include costs necessary to secure outside experts in  
87 evaluating the petition. The Tax Commissioner may condition the review of any petition pursuant to this  
88 subdivision upon payment of such fee.

89 No suit for the purpose of contesting any action of the Tax Commissioner under this subdivision  
90 shall be maintained in any court of this Commonwealth.

91 c. Nothing in subdivision B 8 shall be construed to limit or negate the Department's authority under  
92 § 58.1-446;

93 9. a. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2004, the amount of any interest expenses  
94 and costs directly or indirectly paid, accrued, or incurred to, or in connection directly or indirectly with  
95 one or more direct or indirect transactions with one or more related members to the extent such  
96 expenses and costs were deductible or deducted in computing federal taxable income for Virginia  
97 purposes. This addition shall not be required for any portion of the interest expenses and costs, if:

98 (1) The related member has substantial business operations relating to interest-generating activities, in  
99 which the related member pays expenses for at least five full-time employees who maintain, manage,  
100 defend or are otherwise responsible for operations or administration relating to the interest-generating  
101 activities; and

102 (2) The interest expenses and costs are not directly or indirectly for, related to or in connection with  
103 the direct or indirect acquisition, maintenance, management, sale, exchange, or disposition of intangible  
104 property; and

105 (3) The transaction giving rise to the expenses and costs between the corporation and the related  
106 member has a valid business purpose other than the avoidance or reduction of taxation and payments  
107 between the parties are made at arm's length rates and terms; and

108 (4) One of the following applies:

109 (i) The corresponding item of income received by the related member is subject to a tax based on or  
110 measured by net income or capital imposed by Virginia, another state, or a foreign government that has  
111 entered into a comprehensive tax treaty with the United States government;

112 (ii) Payments arise pursuant to a pre-existing contract entered into when the parties were not related  
113 members provided the payments continue to be made at arm's length rates and terms;

114 (iii) The related member engages in transactions with parties other than related members that  
115 generate revenue in excess of \$2 million annually; or

(iv) The transaction giving rise to the interest payments between the corporation and a related member was done at arm's length rates and terms and meets any of the following: (a) the related member uses funds that are borrowed from a party other than a related member or that are paid, incurred or passed-through to a person who is not a related member; (b) the debt is part of a regular and systematic funds management or portfolio investment activity conducted by the related member, whereby the funds of two or more related members are aggregated for the purpose of achieving economies of scale, the internal financing of the active business operations of members, or the benefit of centralized management of funds; (c) financing the expansion of the business operations; or (d) restructuring the debt of related members, or the pass-through of acquisition-related indebtedness to related members.

b. A corporation required to add to its federal taxable income interest expenses and costs pursuant to subdivision a may petition the Tax Commissioner, after filing the related income tax return for the taxable year and remitting to the Tax Commissioner all taxes, penalties, and interest due under this article for such taxable year including tax upon any amount of interest expenses and costs required to be added to federal taxable income pursuant to subdivision a, to consider evidence relating to the transaction or transactions between the corporation and a related member or members that resulted in the corporation's taxable income being increased, as required under subdivision a, for such interest expenses and costs.

If the corporation can demonstrate to the Tax Commissioner's sole satisfaction, by clear and convincing evidence, that the transaction or transactions between the corporation and a related member or members resulting in such increase in taxable income pursuant to subdivision a had a valid business purpose other than the avoidance or reduction of the tax due under this chapter and that the related payments between the parties were made at arm's length rates and terms, the Tax Commissioner shall permit the corporation to file an amended return. For purposes of such amended return, the requirements of subdivision a shall not apply to any transaction for which the Tax Commissioner is satisfied (and has identified) that the transaction had a valid business purpose other than the avoidance or reduction of the tax due under this chapter and that the related payments between the parties were made at arm's length rates and terms. Such amended return shall be filed by the corporation within one year of the written permission granted by the Tax Commissioner and any refund of the tax imposed under this article shall include interest at a rate equal to the rate of interest established under § 58.1-15 and such interest shall accrue as provided under § 58.1-1833. However, upon the filing of such amended return, any related member of the corporation that subtracted from taxable income amounts received pursuant to subdivision C 21 shall be subject to the tax imposed under this article on that portion of such amounts for which the corporation has filed an amended return pursuant to this subdivision. In addition, for such transactions identified by the Tax Commissioner herein by which he has been satisfied by clear and convincing evidence, the Tax Commissioner may permit the corporation in filing income tax returns for subsequent taxable years to deduct the related interest expenses and costs without making the adjustment under subdivision a.

The Tax Commissioner may charge a fee for all direct and indirect costs relating to the review of any petition pursuant to this subdivision, to include costs necessary to secure outside experts in evaluating the petition. The Tax Commissioner may condition the review of any petition pursuant to this subdivision upon payment of such fee.

No suit for the purpose of contesting any action of the Tax Commissioner under this subdivision shall be maintained in any court of this Commonwealth.

c. Nothing in subdivision B 9 shall be construed to limit or negate the Department's authority under § 58.1-446.

d. For purposes of subdivision B 9:

"Arm's-length rates and terms" means that (i) two or more related members enter into a written agreement for the transaction, (ii) such agreement is of a duration and contains payment terms substantially similar to those that the related member would be able to obtain from an unrelated entity, (iii) the interest is at or below the applicable federal rate compounded annually for debt instruments under § 1274(d) of the Internal Revenue Code that was in effect at the time of the agreement, and (iv) the borrower or payor adheres to the payment terms of the agreement governing the transaction or any amendments thereto.

"Valid business purpose" means one or more business purposes that alone or in combination constitute the motivation for some business activity or transaction, which activity or transaction improves, apart from tax effects, the economic position of the taxpayer, as further defined by regulation.

10. a. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2009, the amount of dividends deductible under §§ 561 and 857 of the Internal Revenue Code by a Captive Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). For purposes of this subdivision, a REIT is a Captive REIT if:

- (1) It is not regularly traded on an established securities market;
- (2) More than 50 percent of the voting power or value of beneficial interests or shares of which, at

177 any time during the last half of the taxable year, is owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a  
178 single entity that is (i) a corporation or an association taxable as a corporation under the Internal  
179 Revenue Code; and (ii) not exempt from federal income tax pursuant to § 501(a) of the Internal  
180 Revenue Code; and

181 (3) More than 25 percent of its income consists of rents from real property as defined in § 856(d) of  
182 the Internal Revenue Code.

183 b. For purposes of applying the ownership test of subdivision 10 a (2), the following entities shall  
184 not be considered a corporation or an association taxable as a corporation:

185 (1) Any REIT that is not treated as a Captive REIT;

186 (2) Any REIT subsidiary under § 856 of the Internal Revenue Code other than a qualified REIT  
187 subsidiary of a Captive REIT;

188 (3) Any Listed Australian Property Trust, or an entity organized as a trust, provided that a Listed  
189 Australian Property Trust owns or controls, directly or indirectly, 75 percent or more of the voting or  
190 value of the beneficial interests or shares of such trust; and

191 (4) Any Qualified Foreign Entity.

192 c. For purposes of subdivision B 10, the constructive ownership rules prescribed under § 318(a) of  
193 the Internal Revenue Code, as modified by § 856(d)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, shall apply in  
194 determining the ownership of stock, assets, or net profits of any person.

195 d. For purposes of subdivision B 10:

196 "Listed Australian Property Trust" means an Australian unit trust registered as a Management  
197 Investment Scheme, pursuant to the Australian Corporations Act, in which the principal class of units is  
198 listed on a recognized stock exchange in Australia and is regularly traded on an established securities  
199 market.

200 "Qualified Foreign Entity" means a corporation, trust, association or partnership organized outside the  
201 laws of the United States and that satisfies all of the following criteria:

202 (1) At least 75 percent of the entity's total asset value at the close of its taxable year is represented  
203 by real estate assets, as defined in § 856(c)(5)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code, thereby including shares  
204 or certificates of beneficial interest in any REIT, cash and cash equivalents, and U.S. Government  
205 securities;

206 (2) The entity is not subject to a tax on amounts distributed to its beneficial owners, or is exempt  
207 from entity level tax;

208 (3) The entity distributes, on an annual basis, at least 85 percent of its taxable income, as computed  
209 in the jurisdiction in which it is organized, to the holders of its shares or certificates of beneficial  
210 interest;

211 (4) The shares or certificates of beneficial interest of such entity are regularly traded on an  
212 established securities market or, if not so traded, not more than 10 percent of the voting power or value  
213 in such entity is held directly, indirectly, or constructively by a single entity or individual; and

214 (5) The entity is organized in a country that has a tax treaty with the United States.

215 *11. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, any amount allowed as a federal*  
216 *income tax deduction for a charitable contribution under § 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,*  
217 *as amended or renumbered, if an education investment tax credit is awarded to the taxpayer for the*  
218 *same charitable contribution pursuant to § 58.1-439.26.*

219 C. There shall be subtracted to the extent included in and not otherwise subtracted from federal  
220 taxable income:

221 1. Income derived from obligations, or on the sale or exchange of obligations, of the United States  
222 and on obligations or securities of any authority, commission or instrumentality of the United States to  
223 the extent exempt from state income taxes under the laws of the United States including, but not limited  
224 to, stocks, bonds, treasury bills, and treasury notes, but not including interest on refunds of federal taxes,  
225 interest on equipment purchase contracts, or interest on other normal business transactions.

226 2. Income derived from obligations, or on the sale or exchange of obligations of this Commonwealth  
227 or of any political subdivision or instrumentality of this Commonwealth.

228 3. Dividends upon stock in any domestic international sales corporation, as defined by § 992 of the  
229 Internal Revenue Code, 50 percent or more of the income of which was assessable for the preceding  
230 year, or the last year in which such corporation has income, under the provisions of the income tax laws  
231 of the Commonwealth.

232 4. The amount of any refund or credit for overpayment of income taxes imposed by this  
233 Commonwealth or any other taxing jurisdiction.

234 5. Any amount included therein by the operation of the provisions of § 78 of the Internal Revenue  
235 Code (foreign dividend gross-up).

236 6. The amount of wages or salaries eligible for the federal Targeted Jobs Credit which was not  
237 deducted for federal purposes on account of the provisions of § 280C(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

238 7. Any amount included therein by the operation of § 951 of the Internal Revenue Code (subpart F

income).

8. Any amount included therein which is foreign source income as defined in § 58.1-302.

9. [Repealed.]

10. The amount of any dividends received from corporations in which the taxpaying corporation owns 50 percent or more of the voting stock.

11. [Repealed.]

12, 13. [Expired.]

14. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1995, the amount for "qualified research expenses" or "basic research expenses" eligible for deduction for federal purposes, but which were not deducted, on account of the provisions of § 280C(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

15. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2000, the total amount actually contributed in funds to the Virginia Public School Construction Grants Program and Fund established in Chapter 11.1 (§ 22.1-175.1 et seq.) of Title 22.1.

16. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2000, the gain derived from the sale or exchange of real property or the sale or exchange of an easement to real property which results in the real property or the easement thereto being devoted to open-space use, as that term is defined in § 58.1-3230, for a period of time not less than 30 years. To the extent a subtraction is taken in accordance with this subdivision, no tax credit under this chapter for donating land for its preservation shall be allowed for three years following the year in which the subtraction is taken.

17. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2001, any amount included therein with respect to § 58.1-440.1.

18. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 1999, income received as a result of (i) the "Master Settlement Agreement," as defined in § 3.2-3100; and (ii) the National Tobacco Grower Settlement Trust dated July 19, 1999, by (a) tobacco farming businesses; (b) any business holding a tobacco marketing quota, or tobacco farm acreage allotment, under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938; or (c) any business having the right to grow tobacco pursuant to such a quota allotment.

19, 20. [Repealed.]

21. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2004, any amount of intangible expenses and costs or interest expenses and costs added to the federal taxable income of a corporation pursuant to subdivision B 8 or B 9 shall be subtracted from the federal taxable income of the related member that received such amount if such related member is subject to Virginia income tax on the same amount.

22. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2009, any gain recognized from the sale of launch services to space flight participants, as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 70102, or launch services intended to provide individuals the training or experience of a launch, without performing an actual launch. To qualify for a deduction under this subdivision, launch services must be performed in Virginia or originate from an airport or spaceport in Virginia.

23. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2009, any gain recognized as a result of resupply services contracts for delivering payload, as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 70102, entered into with the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or other space flight entity, as defined in § 8.01-227.8, and launched from an airport or spaceport in Virginia.

24. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, any income taxed as a long-term capital gain for federal income tax purposes, or any income taxed as investment services partnership interest income (otherwise known as investment partnership carried interest income) for federal income tax purposes. To qualify for a subtraction under this subdivision, such income must be attributable to an investment in a "qualified business," as defined in § 58.1-339.4, or in any other technology business approved by the Secretary of Technology, provided the business has its principal office or facility in the Commonwealth and less than \$3 million in annual revenues in the fiscal year prior to the investment. To qualify for a subtraction under this subdivision, the investment must be made between the dates of April 1, 2010, and June 30, 2013. No taxpayer who has claimed a tax credit for an investment in a "qualified business" under § 58.1-339.4 shall be eligible for the subtraction under this subdivision for an investment in the same business.

D. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2006, there shall be subtracted from federal taxable income contract payments to a producer of quota tobacco or a tobacco quota holder as provided under the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-357) as follows:

1. If the payment is received in installment payments, then the recognized gain, including any gain recognized in taxable year 2005, may be subtracted in the taxable year immediately following the year in which the installment payment is received.

2. If the payment is received in a single payment, then 10 percent of the recognized gain may be subtracted in the taxable year immediately following the year in which the single payment is received. The taxpayer may then deduct an equal amount in each of the nine succeeding taxable years.

E. Adjustments to federal taxable income shall be made to reflect the transitional modifications provided in § 58.1-315.

F. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the income from any disposition of real property which is held by the taxpayer for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's trade or business, as defined in § 453(l)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code, of property made on or after January 1, 2009, may, at the election of the taxpayer, be recognized under the installment method described under § 453 of the Internal Revenue Code, provided that (i) the election relating to the dealer disposition of the property has been made on or before the due date prescribed by law (including extensions) for filing the taxpayer's return of the tax imposed under this chapter for the taxable year in which the disposition occurs, and (ii) the dealer disposition is in accordance with restrictions or conditions established by the Department, which shall be set forth in guidelines developed by the Department. Along with such restrictions or conditions, the guidelines shall also address the recapture of such income under certain circumstances. The development of the guidelines shall be exempt from the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).

*Article 13.3.*

*Education Improvement Scholarships.*

*§ 58.1-439.25. Definitions.*

*As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

*"Business entity" means a business that is subject to the taxes imposed by Article 10 (§ 58.1-400 et seq.).*

*"Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program" means the federal program established under 42 U.S.C. § 1751.*

*"Monetary contribution" means contributions of cash, a financial asset as defined in § 8.8A-102, or tangible personal property or real property that is convertible into cash with a value that can be determined. For purposes of determining the value of real property, the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) shall be utilized.*

*"Qualified educational expenses" means school-related tuition and instructional fees and materials, including textbooks, workbooks, and supplies used solely for school-related work.*

*"Scholarship foundation" means a nonstock, nonprofit corporation that is (i) exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended or renumbered; (ii) approved by the Department of Taxation in accordance with the provisions of § 58.1-439.27; and (iii) established to provide financial aid for the education of students residing in the Commonwealth.*

*"Student" means a child who is a resident of Virginia and (i) is enrolled in the Commonwealth's public schools for the year prior to receiving a scholarship foundation scholarship, (ii) is a prior recipient of a scholarship foundation scholarship, (iii) is eligible to enter kindergarten or first grade, or (iv) was not a resident of Virginia during the preceding school year.*

*§ 58.1-439.26. Tax credit for donations to scholarship foundations by business entities.*

A. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, a business entity may receive a credit against any tax due under Article 10 (§ 58.1-400 et seq.), in an amount equal to 70 percent of its monetary contribution to a scholarship foundation included on the list published annually by the Department in accordance with the provisions of § 58.1-439.28. The credit shall be allowed to be claimed for the taxable year following the year of such contribution.

B. Tax credits shall be awarded to business entities by the Department on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance with procedures established by the Department under the following conditions:

1. The total amount of tax credits that may be granted each fiscal year under this section shall not exceed \$25 million.

2. Any tax credit that is not used by a business entity in the taxable year following the year in which the contribution is made shall be refundable.

3. Every business entity seeking the credit allowed under this section shall submit with the income tax return verification from each scholarship foundation to which monetary donations have been made by the business entity during the taxable year.

4. A business entity shall not be allowed a tax credit pursuant to this section for any monetary contribution for which the business entity is allowed a federal income tax deduction as a charitable contribution pursuant to § 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended or renumbered, unless the business entity adds the amount of such federal deduction to its Virginia taxable income, pursuant to subdivision B 11 of § 58.1-402.

C. In a form approved by the Department, the business entity or a scholarship foundation on behalf of a business entity shall request and receive preauthorization for a specified tax credit amount from the Department. The Department's preauthorization notice shall accompany the monetary contribution from the business entity to the scholarship foundation, which shall, within 20 days, return the notice to the Department certifying the amount of the monetary contribution and date received. Preauthorization notices not acted upon by the business entity within 60 days of issuance shall be void. No tax credit

shall be approved by the Department for activities that are a part of a business entity's normal course of business.

§ 58.1-439.27. Scholarship foundation eligibility and requirements; list of foundations receiving contributions.

A. Scholarship foundations seeking to receive and administer tax-credit-approved funds shall submit information to the Department, which shall determine whether an applicant is a scholarship foundation as defined in § 58.1-439.25. The Department shall prescribe through guidelines what reasonable information shall be submitted by such foundations. Notice of approval or denial, including reasons for denial, shall be issued by the Department to the applicant within 60 days after the information is submitted. Any approval shall not be withheld unreasonably.

B. The Department shall submit a list of all scholarship foundations receiving contributions from business entities to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Finance Committees no later than December 1 of each year.

§ 58.1-439.28. Guidelines for scholarship foundations.

A. A scholarship foundation, as defined in § 58.1-439.25 and included on the list published annually by the Department in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall disburse annually at least 90 percent of its tax-credit-derived funds for qualified educational expenses through scholarships to eligible students.

B. In awarding scholarships, the scholarship foundation shall (i) provide scholarships to any student whose family's annual household income is equal to or less than the amount required to qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program, (ii) not limit scholarships to students of one school, and (iii) comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Payment of the scholarship by the eligible scholarship foundation shall be by individual warrant or check made payable to and mailed to the eligible school that the student's parent or legal guardian indicates.

C. Scholarship foundations shall ensure that eligible schools selected by scholarship students (i) are in compliance with the Commonwealth's and locality's health and safety laws and codes; (ii) hold a valid occupancy permit as required by the locality; (iii) comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; and (iv) comply with nonpublic school accreditation requirements as set forth in § 22.1-19 and administered by the Virginia Council for Private Education or maintain an assessment system that annually measures scholarship students' progress in reading and math using a national norm-referenced achievement test, including but not limited to the Stanford Achievement Test, California Achievement Test, and Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

D. The amount of a scholarship provided to any student for any single school year by all eligible scholarship foundations from eligible contributions shall not exceed the lesser of (i) the actual qualified educational expenses or (ii) 100 percent of the per-pupil amount distributed to each local school division as the state's share of the standards of quality costs using the composite index of ability to pay as defined in the general appropriation act.

E. Scholarship foundations shall develop procedures for disbursing scholarships in periodic payments throughout the school year to ensure scholarships are portable.

F. An audit of the scholarship foundation's tax-credit-derived funds, which complies with generally accepted auditing standards and is conducted by a certified public accountant, shall be conducted annually and a summary report made available to the public and the Department of Education upon request. The report shall include (i) the total number and dollar amount of contributions per locality received during the previous calendar year, (ii) the total number and dollar amount of qualified educational expenses scholarships awarded during the previous calendar year to every student whose family's annual household income was equal to or less than the amount required to qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program, and (iii) the percentage of first-time recipients of qualified educational expenses scholarships.

G. The Department shall publish annually on its website a list of each scholarship foundation qualified under this section. Once a foundation has been qualified by the Department, it shall remain qualified until the Department removes the foundation from its annual list. The Department shall remove a foundation from the annual list if it no longer meets the requirements of this section. The Department may periodically require a qualified foundation to submit updated or additional information for purposes of determining whether or not the foundation continues to meet the requirements of this section.