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HOUSE BILL NO. 1496

Offered January 9, 2013

Prefiled January 2, 2013

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 23-38.56 of the Code of Virginia, relating to senior citizens; reduced tuition for attendance at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.*

Patrons—Stolle, Ramadan, Bell, Richard P., Rust and Tyler

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 23-38.56 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 23-38.56. Attendance at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth; conditions.**

A. A senior citizen shall be permitted, under regulations as may be prescribed by the State Council of Higher Education:

(i) 1. To register for and enroll in courses as a full-time or part-time student for academic credit if such senior citizen had a taxable individual income not exceeding \$15,000 for Virginia income tax purposes for the year preceding the year in which enrollment is sought;

(ii) 2. To register for and audit courses offered for academic credit; and

(iii) 3. To register for and enroll in courses not offered for academic credit in any ~~state~~ public institution of higher education in this Commonwealth.

Such senior citizen shall pay no tuition or fees except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials, such as laboratory fees, but shall be subject to the admission requirements of the institution and a determination by the institution of its ability to offer the course or courses for which the senior citizen registers. The State Council of Higher Education shall establish procedures to ensure that tuition-paying students are accommodated in courses before senior citizens participating in this program are enrolled. However, the ~~state~~ public institutions of higher education may make individual exceptions to these procedures when the senior citizen has completed ~~seventy-five~~ 75 percent of the requirements for a degree.

B. A senior citizen whose taxable income exceeded \$15,000 for Virginia income tax purposes for the year preceding the year in which enrollment is sought shall be permitted, under regulations as may be prescribed by the State Council of Higher Education, to register for and enroll in courses as a full-time or part-time student for academic credit, provided that total student enrollment for the course or courses in which the senior citizen seeks enrollment has not reached 75 percent of the maximum course capacity as of the first day of the academic term.

Such senior citizen shall pay tuition at a reduced rate of 25 percent of the full cost of the course or courses in which the senior citizen has enrolled, as established by the institution, and shall pay no fees except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials, such as laboratory fees. Such senior citizen shall be subject to the admission requirements of the institution and a determination by the institution of its ability to offer the course or courses for which the senior citizen registers.

INTRODUCED

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