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SENATE BILL NO. 1290

Offered January 15, 2013

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 23-7.4:7 and 23-7.4:8, relating to a partial tuition waiver for dependent children of university and college faculty.*

Patron—Edwards

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 23-7.4:7 and 23-7.4:8 as follows:

§ 23-7.4:7. Partial tuition waiver for dependent children of university and college faculty.

A. There is hereby created the Dependent Children of University and College Faculty Reduced Tuition Program, to be administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Under this program, dependent children of current full-time faculty members who have been employed full time by any one or more public Virginia universities or colleges for an aggregate period of at least seven years shall be eligible to receive a 50 percent tuition waiver if sufficient funds are available in the Dependent Children of University and College Faculty Reduced Tuition Fund, established pursuant to § 23-7.4:8. The tuition waivers shall be used for undergraduate education at any public institution of higher education in Virginia. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this section and the disbursement of funds consistent therewith and appropriate to the administration of the program.

B. To be eligible for the partial tuition waiver under this program, the dependent child must be under the age of 21 at the commencement of the academic year during which the initial tuition waiver is to be effective and either have been admitted to a public Virginia university or college under the same admissions requirements, standards, and policies applicable to other applicants of the same university or college or be a current student in good standing at a public Virginia university or college.

C. An eligible applicant who has continued to maintain satisfactory academic progress toward graduation may have his partial tuition waiver renewed until (i) he has accumulated a maximum of 120 academic credit hours or (ii) he reaches his twenty-fifth birthday, whichever occurs first.

D. No partial tuition waiver allocated under this program shall be charged against any other tuition waiver limitation established by the Commonwealth.

E. This partial tuition waiver shall not apply to students enrolled under the academic common market agreement.

F. If payment of all application waivers for an academic year would exceed the moneys in the Fund, then available funds may be prorated by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia among qualified applicants.

§ 23-7.4:8. Dependent Children of University and College Faculty Reduced Tuition Fund established.

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Dependent Children of University and College Faculty Reduced Tuition Fund, hereafter referred to as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. Such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose and such gifts, grants, donations, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose of paying any public Virginia university or college on behalf of students who have been awarded tuition waivers pursuant to § 23-7.4:7. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed during the 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly that becomes law.

INTRODUCED

SB1290