

2013 SESSION

INTRODUCED

13104233D

SENATE BILL NO. 1344

Offered January 18, 2013

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23-9.6:1.02, relating to the State Council for Higher Education; accrediting agencies.

Patron—Petersen

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 a section numbered 23-9.6:1.02 as follows:

**§23-9.6:1.02. Accrediting agencies; certification.**

A. The Council shall not recognize or rely upon the ratings of any national or regional accrediting agency that accredits institutions of higher education unless such agency is certified by the Council. The Council shall not certify any accrediting agency unless the agency (i) provides the Council with a list of its shareholders or owners and members of the governing board, (ii) a financial statement showing solvency; (iii) adopts and provides the council with a written policy on ethics; and (iv) agrees that any communication between the agency and the Council or a public university of higher education in the Commonwealth is a public record as defined in §2.2-3701 and is subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.).

B. The Council shall publish any information required by this section on its website.

2. That the State Council of Higher Education shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

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SB1344