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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2121**

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 23-7.4:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to eligibility for in-state tuition; members of the Virginia National Guard.*

Patrons—Mason and Murphy

Referred to Committee on Education

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

**1. That § 23-7.4:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 23-7.4:2. Eligibility for in-state or reduced tuition for students not domiciled in Virginia; tuition grants and in-state tuition for members of the National Guard.**

A. Students who live outside the Commonwealth and have been employed full time inside Virginia for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement for in-state tuition shall be eligible for in-state tuition charges if such student has paid Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in the Commonwealth for the tax year prior to the date of the alleged entitlement. Students claimed as dependents for federal and Virginia income tax purposes who live outside the Commonwealth shall become eligible for in-state tuition charges if the nonresident parents claiming them as dependents have been employed full time inside Virginia for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement and paid Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in the Commonwealth for the tax year prior to the date of the alleged entitlement. Such students shall continue to be eligible for in-state tuition charges for so long as they or their qualifying parent is employed full time in Virginia, paying Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in the Commonwealth and the student is claimed as a dependent for Virginia and federal income tax purposes. Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as in-state students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee revenue policies.

B. Any person who (i) is a member of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Virginia and has a minimum remaining obligation of two years, (ii) has satisfactorily completed required initial active duty service, (iii) is satisfactorily performing duty in accordance with regulations of the National Guard, and (iv) is enrolled in any state institution of higher education, any private, accredited, and nonprofit institution of higher education in the Commonwealth whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate or graduate education and not to provide religious training or theological education, any course or program offered by any such institution or any public career and technical education school shall be eligible for a grant in the amount of the difference between the full cost of tuition and any other educational benefits for which he is eligible as a member of the National Guard. Application for a grant shall be made to the Department of Military Affairs. Grants shall be awarded from funds available for the purpose by such Department.

Notwithstanding the foregoing requirement that a member of the National Guard have a minimum of two years remaining on his service obligation, if a member is activated or deployed for federal military service, an additional day shall be added to the member's eligibility for the grant for each day of active federal service up to 365 days. Additional credit, or credit for state duty, may be given at the discretion of the Adjutant General.

In addition, any person who met the requirements for in-state tuition prior to being called to active duty in the National Guard of another state shall be eligible for in-state tuition following completion of active duty service if during active duty that person maintained one or more of the following in Virginia rather than in another state or jurisdiction: a driver's license, motor vehicle registration, voter registration, employment, property ownership, or sources of financial support. Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as in-state students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee revenue policies.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 23-7.4 or any other provision of the law to the contrary, the governing board of any state institution of higher education or the governing board of the Virginia Community College System may charge the same tuition as is charged to any person domiciled in Virginia pursuant to the provisions of § 23-7.4 to:

1. Any person enrolled in one of the institution's programs designated by the State Council of Higher Education who is domiciled in and is entitled to reduced tuition charges in the institutions of higher education in any state which is a party to the Southern Regional Education Compact which has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia;

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59 2. Any student from a foreign country who is enrolled in a foreign exchange program approved by  
60 the state institution during the same period that an exchange student from the same state institution, who  
61 is entitled to in-state tuition pursuant to § 23-7.4, is attending the foreign institution; and

62 3. Any high school or magnet school student, not otherwise qualified for in-state tuition, who is  
63 enrolled in courses specifically designed as part of the high school or magnet school curriculum in a  
64 community college for which he may, upon successful completion, receive high school and community  
65 college credit pursuant to a dual enrollment agreement between the high school or magnet school and  
66 the community college.

67 Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as  
68 out-of-state students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee  
69 revenue policies.

70 D. The governing board of the Virginia Community College System shall charge in-state tuition to  
71 any person enrolled in one of the System's institutions who lives within a 30-mile radius of a Virginia  
72 institution, is domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning  
73 in any state which is contiguous to Virginia and which has similar reciprocal provisions for persons  
74 domiciled in Virginia.

75 Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as  
76 in-state students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee  
77 revenue policies.

78 E. The board of the University of Virginia's College at Wise and the board of visitors of the  
79 University of Virginia may charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled at the University of Virginia's  
80 College at Wise who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is  
81 domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Kentucky,  
82 if Kentucky has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia.

83 In addition, the board of the University of Virginia's College at Wise and the board of visitors of the  
84 University of Virginia may charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled at the University of Virginia's  
85 College at Wise who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is  
86 domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Tennessee,  
87 if Tennessee has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia. The board of the  
88 University of Virginia's College at Wise and its partners or associates offering programs jointly at a  
89 regional off-campus center may also charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled in such joint  
90 programs who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is domiciled  
91 in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Tennessee, if  
92 Tennessee has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia. Any such respective  
93 partners or associates shall establish and charge separately tuition rates for their independent classes or  
94 programs at such regional centers.

95 Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as  
96 out-of-state students for the purposes of determining admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee revenue  
97 policies.

98 F. Public institutions of higher education may enter into special arrangement contracts with Virginia  
99 employers or authorities controlling federal installations or agencies located in Virginia. The special  
100 arrangement contracts shall be for the purpose of providing reduced rate tuition charges for the  
101 employees of the Virginia employers or federal personnel when the employers or federal authorities are  
102 assuming the liability for paying, to the extent permitted by federal law, the tuition for the employees or  
103 personnel in question and the employees or personnel are classified by the requirements of this section  
104 as out-of-state.

105 Special arrangement contracts with Virginia employers or federal installations or agencies may be for  
106 group instruction in facilities provided by the employer or federal authority or in the institution's  
107 facilities or on a student-by-student basis for specific employment-related programs.

108 Special arrangement contracts shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years and shall be  
109 reviewed for legal sufficiency by the Office of the Attorney General prior to signing. All rates agreed to  
110 by the public institutions shall be at least equal to in-state tuition and shall only be granted by the  
111 institution with which the employer or the federal authorities have a valid contract for students for  
112 whom the employer or federal authorities are paying the tuition charges.

113 All special arrangement contracts with authorities controlling federal installations or agencies shall  
114 include a specific number of students to be served at reduced rates.

115 Nothing in this subsection shall change the domiciliary status of any student for the purposes of  
116 enrollment reporting or calculating the proportions of general funds and tuition and fees contributed to  
117 the cost of education.

118 G. Any active duty members, activated guard or reservist members, or guard or reservist members  
119 mobilized or on temporary active orders for six months or more, who reside in Virginia, *and members*  
120 *of the Virginia National Guard residing in Virginia* shall be eligible for in-state tuition charges. Any

121 out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as in-state  
122 students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee revenue  
123 policies.

124 H. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, veterans residing within the Commonwealth shall be  
125 eligible for in-state tuition charges. Any students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall  
126 be counted as in-state students for the purpose of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition  
127 and fee revenue policies.

128 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, surviving spouses, as that term is defined in § 23-7.4,  
129 residing within the Commonwealth shall be eligible for in-state tuition charges. Any students granted  
130 in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as in-state students for the purpose of  
131 determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee revenue policies.