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SENATE BILL NO. 1369

Offered January 20, 2015

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 19.1, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-349.1 through 22.1-349.4, relating to the establishment of the Virginia Science Technology Engineering and Applied Mathematics Academy.*

Patrons—Norment, McWaters, Ruff and Vogel

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 in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 19.1, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-349.1 through 22.1-349.4, as follows:

CHAPTER 19.1.**VIRGINIA SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS ACADEMY.**

§ 22.1-349.1. Virginia Science Technology Engineering and Applied Mathematics Academy established; purpose.

The Virginia Science Technology Engineering and Applied Mathematics Academy, Inc., (Virginia STEAM Academy) is established as a private, nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a statewide, publicly accessible, special high school of science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics for the purpose of:

- 1. Integrating the sciences, humanities, and arts;*
- 2. Providing a rigorous, college-level learning environment for high school students in an immersive, applied-living, and applied-learning context;*
- 3. Attracting more students to science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics before college;*
- 4. Accelerating learning among academically talented high school students in the Commonwealth who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics;*
- 5. Providing accelerated instruction in a residential educational setting;*
- 6. Serving as a laboratory for students and educators across the Commonwealth for exemplary teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics through residential summer academies, digital learning, and professional development;*
- 7. Operating a consortium model that includes a consortium leadership team consisting of students and parents and representatives from elementary and secondary education, higher education, business, science, engineering, the arts, civic organizations, government, and the military that informs the board of directors on the design, delivery, measurement, and continuous improvement of all facets and initiatives of the Virginia STEAM Academy; and*
- 8. Positively affecting the economy of the Commonwealth.*

§ 22.1-349.2. Board of directors.

A. The Virginia STEAM Academy shall be governed by a board of directors (board) consisting of at least 15 but not more than 21 members appointed and elected as follows: (i) one member of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; (ii) one member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; (iii) one nonlegislative citizen member, appointed by the Governor, who is among the best qualified to serve on the board by virtue of his experience with science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics as a student, parent, engaged citizen, or representative of business, industry, government, or education; (iv) the Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio with voting privileges; and (v) at least eight but not more than 14 nonlegislative citizen members, elected by the board, who demonstrate effective leadership skills, represent each of the eight superintendent's regions in the Commonwealth, and consist of (a) no more than two presidents of partner colleges or universities, or their designees, elected on a rotating basis until the president of each Virginia STEAM Academy partner college or university, or his designee, has been a member of the board; (b) no more than two division superintendents of partner school divisions elected on a rotating basis until a division superintendent of each Virginia STEAM Academy partner school division has been a member of the board; (c) no more than two representatives of partner science, engineering, and research institutions elected on a rotating basis until a representative of each partner science, engineering, and research institution has been a member of the board; (d) no more than two

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SB1369

59 representatives of business partners elected on a rotating basis until a representative of each business
60 partner has been a member of the board; and (e) no more than six students, parents, or other citizens of
61 the Commonwealth at large. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

62 B. Ex officio members of the board shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.

63 C. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired
64 terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. All members may be
65 reappointed.

66 D. No appointed member shall serve more than two consecutive two-year terms and no member
67 elected by the board shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. The remainder of any term
68 to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the
69 member's eligibility for reappointment.

70 E. The board shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer from among its
71 membership. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The board shall meet at least once
72 annually. The meetings of the board shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority
73 of the members so request.

74 F. No member of the board shall receive compensation for the performance of his duties, but all
75 members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
76 their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of expenses of the members
77 shall be provided by the Virginia STEAM Academy.

78 **§ 22.1-349.3. Duties of board of directors.**

79 The board shall:

80 1. Appoint a president, who shall be the chief executive officer of the Virginia STEAM Academy and
81 have such duties as may be prescribed by the board;

82 2. Adopt regulations and bylaws for its government and procedures;

83 3. Adopt such rules and regulations for the government and management of the Virginia STEAM
84 Academy as it deems expedient and are not contrary to law;

85 4. Confer degrees, subject to the approval of the Board of Education;

86 5. Appoint an advisory committee to inform and be informed by the board, consisting of no more
87 than 15 members, who shall (i) include at least one member from each of the eight superintendent's
88 regions of the Commonwealth and (ii) represent students, parents, business, elementary and secondary
89 education, higher education, government, and science, engineering, and research;

90 6. Establish the course of study for the Virginia STEAM Academy that (i) includes the standard high
91 school curriculum and in-depth, applied instruction in science, technology, engineering, and applied
92 mathematics and (ii) is informed by and aligned with, as appropriate, international standards including
93 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Programme for International
94 Student Assessment (PISA);

95 7. Pursue independent accreditation of the Virginia STEAM Academy by AdvancEd, formerly
96 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Council on Accreditation and School
97 Improvement, and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS); and

98 8. Establish criteria for the admission of students who reside in the Commonwealth that (i) seek to
99 establish a student body that mirrors the demographics of the Commonwealth with respect to geography,
100 income, race, ethnicity, and gender, as permitted by law, and (ii) include a weighted lottery for unfilled
101 seats that also seeks to establish such a balanced student body, as permitted by law.

102 **§ 22.1-349.4. Funding.**

103 The Virginia STEAM Academy shall receive (i) the proportionate share of state and federal funds
104 allocated to each enrolled student by the school division in which the student's parents reside and (ii)
105 the agreed-upon share of local funds allocated to each enrolled student by the school division in which
106 the student's parents reside that is established in the general appropriation act.