

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 23-9.2:8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to higher education; student*
3 *mental health policies.*

4 [S 425]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 23-9.2:8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 23-9.2:8. Student mental health policies.**

9 A. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall develop and implement
10 policies that advise students, faculty, and staff, including residence hall staff, of the proper procedures
11 for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior, and
12 provide for training, where appropriate. Such policies shall require procedures for notifying the
13 institution's student health or counseling center for the purposes set forth in subsection C of § 23-9.2:3
14 when a student exhibits suicidal tendencies or behavior.

15 B. The governing board of each public four-year institution of higher education shall establish a
16 written memorandum of understanding with its local community services board or behavioral health
17 authority and with local hospitals and other local mental health facilities in order to expand the scope of
18 services available to students seeking treatment. The memorandum shall designate a contact person to be
19 notified, *to the extent allowable under state and federal privacy laws*, when a student is involuntarily
20 committed, or when a student is discharged from a facility ~~and consents to such notification~~. The
21 memorandum shall also provide for the inclusion of the institution in the post-discharge planning of a
22 student who has been committed and intends to return to campus, to the extent allowable under state
23 and federal privacy laws.

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