

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-207.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to instruction in American*  
3 *Sign Language; academic credit; foreign language requirements.*

4 [H 84]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 22.1-207.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 22.1-207.5. Instruction in American Sign Language.**

9 *A. As used in this section, "American Sign Language" means the natural language recognized*  
10 *globally that is used by members of the deaf community and that is linguistically complete with unique*  
11 *rules for language structure and use that include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and*  
12 *discourse.*

13 *B. If a local school ~~boards~~ offer board offers one or more elective courses in American Sign*  
14 *Language, such school ~~boards~~ board shall (i) grant academic credit for successful completion of an*  
15 *American Sign Language course on the same basis as the successful completion of a foreign language*  
16 *course; and (ii) count completion of an American Sign Language course toward the fulfillment of any*  
17 *foreign language requirement for graduation.*

18 *C. If a local school board does not offer any elective course in American Sign Language, such*  
19 *school board shall (i) grant academic credit for successful completion of an American Sign Language*  
20 *course offered by a comprehensive community college or a multidivision online provider approved by*  
21 *the Board on the same basis as the successful completion of a foreign language course and (ii) count*  
22 *completion of any such American Sign Language course toward the fulfillment of any foreign language*  
23 *requirement for graduation.*

ENROLLED

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