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SENATE BILL NO. 99

Offered January 8, 2020 Prefiled December 5, 2019

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-407.1, relating to public institutions of higher education; admissions applications; criminal history.

Patron—Marsden

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 23.1-407.1 as follows: § 23.1-407.1. Admissions applications; criminal history.

A. No public institution of higher education shall (i) utilize an institution-specific admissions application that contains questions about the criminal history of the applicant; (ii) deny admission to any applicant on the basis of any criminal history information provided by the applicant on any third-party admissions application accepted by the institution; or (iii) otherwise inquire about the criminal history of an applicant for admission prior to the applicant receiving a conditional offer of acceptance from the institution.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a public institution of higher education from inquiring into the criminal history of any individual who is admitted to or enrolled at the institution.