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HOUSE BILL NO. 1976

Offered January 13, 2021

Prefiled January 11, 2021

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-122.7 and 32.1-122.7:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority; mission; membership.

Patrons—Willett, Adams, D.M., Levine and Murphy

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-122.7 and 32.1-122.7:1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-122.7. Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority; purpose.

A. There is hereby created as a public body corporate and as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority (*the Authority*), with such public and corporate powers as are set forth in § 32.1-122.7:2. The Authority is hereby constituted as a public instrumentality, exercising public and essential governmental functions with the power and purpose to provide for the health, welfare, convenience, knowledge, benefit, and prosperity of the residents of the Commonwealth and such other persons who might be served by the Authority. The Authority is ~~being~~ established to move the Commonwealth forward in achieving its vision of ensuring a quality health workforce for all Virginians.

B. The mission of the Authority is to facilitate the development of a statewide health professions pipeline that identifies, educates, recruits, and retains a diverse, appropriately geographically distributed, and culturally competent quality workforce. The mission of the Authority is accomplished by: (i) providing the statewide infrastructure required for health workforce needs assessment and planning that maintains engagement by health professions training programs in decision making and program implementation; (ii) serving as the advisory board and setting priorities for the Virginia Area Health Education Centers Program; (iii) coordinating with and serving as a resource to relevant state, regional, and local entities, including the Department of Health Professions Workforce Data Center, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, the Southwest Virginia Health Authority, or any similar regional health authority that may be developed; (iv) informing state and local policy development as it pertains to health care delivery, training, and education; (v) identifying and promoting evidence-based strategies for health workforce pipeline development and interdisciplinary health care service models, particularly those affecting rural and other underserved areas; (vi) supporting communities in their health workforce recruitment and retention efforts and developing partnerships and promoting models of participatory engagement with business and community-based and social organizations to foster integration of health care training and education; (vii) advocating for programs that will result in reducing the debt load of newly trained health professionals; (viii) identifying high priority target areas within each region of the Commonwealth and working toward health workforce development initiatives that improve health measurably in those areas; ~~and~~ (ix) fostering or creating innovative health workforce development models that provide both health and economic benefits to the regions they serve; (x) *developing strategies to increase diversity in the health workforce by examining demographic data on race and ethnicity in training programs and health professional licensure; and* (xi) *identifying ways to leverage technology to increase access to health workforce training and health care delivery.*

§ 32.1-122.7:1. Board of Directors of the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority.

The Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall ~~consist have a total membership of 13~~ 15 members ~~to be that shall consist of three legislative members, nine nonlegislative citizen members, and three ex officio members.~~ Members shall be appointed as follows: two members 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; one member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; ~~seven and nine~~ nonlegislative citizen members, three of whom shall be representatives of health professional educational or training programs, ~~three~~ five of whom shall be health professionals or employers or representatives of health professionals, and one of whom shall be a representative of community health, to be appointed by the Governor; ~~and the~~ The Commissioner of Health or his designee, the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System or his designee, and the Director of the Department of Health Professions or his designee, ~~who~~ shall serve as ex officio

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59 members with voting privileges. Members appointed by the Governor shall be citizens of the
60 Commonwealth.

61 Legislative members and ~~state government officials~~ *ex officio members* shall serve terms coincident
62 with their terms of office. All appointments of nonlegislative citizen members shall be for two-year
63 terms following the initial staggering of terms. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration
64 of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Legislative and citizen members may be reappointed;
65 however, no citizen member shall serve more than four consecutive two-year terms. The remainder of
66 any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the
67 member's term limit. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

68 The Board of *Directors* shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman annually from among its legislative
69 members. A majority of the members of the Board of *Directors* shall constitute a quorum.

70 The Board of Directors shall report biennially on the activities and recommendations of the Authority
71 to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of
72 Commerce and Trade, *the Chief Workforce Development Advisor*, the State Board of Health, the State
73 Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Joint Commission on Health Care, the Governor, and the
74 General Assembly. In any reporting period where state general funds are appropriated to the Authority,
75 the report shall include a detailed summary of how state general funds were expended.

76 The accounts and records of the Authority showing the receipt and disbursement of funds from
77 whatever source derived shall be in a form prescribed by the Auditor of Public Accounts. The Auditor
78 of Public Accounts, or his legally authorized representative, shall examine the accounts of the Authority
79 as determined necessary by the Auditor of Public Accounts. The cost of such audit shall be borne by the
80 Authority.