

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-615.1, relating to the*
3 *establishment of the Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program.*

4 [H 1980]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23.1-615.1 as follows:**8 **§ 23.1-615.1. *Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program.***9 *A. The Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program (the Program) is*
10 *established for the purpose of reckoning with the history of the Commonwealth, addressing the long*
11 *legacy of slavery in the Commonwealth, and acknowledging that the foundational success of several*
12 *public institutions of higher education was based on the labor of enslaved individuals.*13 *B. Consistent with the purpose set forth in subsection A, Longwood University, the University of*
14 *Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, the Virginia Military Institute, and The College of William*
15 *and Mary in Virginia shall each implement and execute the Program, with any source of funds other*
16 *than state funds or tuition or fee increases, by annually (i) identifying and memorializing, to the extent*
17 *possible, all enslaved individuals who labored on former and current institutionally controlled grounds*
18 *and property and (ii) providing a tangible benefit such as a college scholarship or community-based*
19 *economic development program for individuals or specific communities with a demonstrated historic*
20 *connection to slavery that will empower families to be lifted out of the cycle of poverty.*21 *C. The Council shall collaborate with the institutions set forth in subsection B to establish guidelines*
22 *for the implementation of the Program, including guidelines for the identification of all enslaved*
23 *individuals who labored on former and current institutionally controlled grounds and property, the*
24 *development of appropriate means to memorialize these individuals, the development of programs for*
25 *individuals and communities still experiencing the legacy of slavery to empower them to break the cycle*
26 *of poverty, eligibility criteria for participation in such programs, and the duration of such programs.*27 *D. Each institution set forth in subsection B shall continue the activities set forth in subsection B*
28 *pursuant to the Program for a period equal in length to the period during which the institution used*
29 *enslaved individuals to support the institution or until scholarships have been awarded to a number of*
30 *recipients equal to 100 percent of the population of enslaved individuals identified pursuant to*
31 *subsection B who labored on former and current institutionally controlled grounds and property,*
32 *whichever occurs first.*33 *E. Each institution set forth in subsection B shall annually submit to the Council information on the*
34 *implementation of the Program. The Council shall compile such information in a report and submit such*
35 *report no later than November 1 of each year to the Chairmen of the House Committee on*
36 *Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the*
37 *Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, and the Virginia African American Advisory Board.*38 *F. Each private institution of higher education with a legacy of slavery that is similar to that of any*
39 *institution set forth in subsection B is strongly encouraged to participate in the Program on a voluntary*
40 *basis.*41 **2. That the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall collaborate with Longwood**
42 **University, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, the Virginia Military**
43 **Institute, and The College of William and Mary in Virginia to establish guidelines for the**
44 **Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program, as created by this act,**
45 **pursuant to the provisions of this act no later than July 1, 2022.**