

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 23.1-902.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to institutions of higher*
3 *education; education preparation programs; coursework; audit.*

4 [H 419]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 23.1-902.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 23.1-902.1. Education preparation programs; coursework; audit.**9 *A. Each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private*
10 *institution of higher education that provides training for any student seeking initial licensure by the*
11 *Board of Education shall:*12 *1. Include a program of coursework and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in*
13 *science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction. Each such program of*
14 *coursework and the student mastery required to be demonstrated therein shall be consistent with*
15 *definitions and expectations established by the Board of Education and the Department of Education*
16 *after consultation with a commission consisting of independent literacy experts and stakeholders with*
17 *knowledge of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction that has reviewed*
18 *the requirements established in subdivision 6 of 8VAC20-23-130, subdivision 6 of 8VAC20-23-190,*
19 *subdivision 2 a of 8VAC20-23-350, 8VAC20-23-510 through 8VAC20-23-580, and 8VAC20-23-660; and*20 *2. For any such student seeking initial licensure by the Board of Education as a teacher with an*
21 *endorsement in early childhood, elementary education, or special education or with an endorsement as a*
22 *reading specialist, ensure that reading coursework and field practice opportunities are a significant*
23 *focus of the education preparation program.*24 *B. The Department of Education shall audit at least once every seven years each education*
25 *preparation program, in alignment with each program's accreditation cycle, for compliance with the*
26 *requirements set forth in subsection A.*27 *C. Each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private*
28 *institution of higher education that leads to a degree, concentration, or certificate for reading specialists*
29 *shall include a program of coursework and other training in the identification of and the appropriate*
30 *interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder.*
31 *Such program shall (i) include coursework in the constructs and pedagogy underlying remediation of*
32 *reading, spelling, and writing and (ii) require reading specialists to demonstrate mastery of an*
33 *evidence-based, structured literacy instructional approach that includes explicit, systematic, sequential,*
34 *and cumulative instruction.*35 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.**