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SENATE BILL NO. 1110

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
on February 2, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Hashmi)

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-411.1, relating to public institutions of higher education; student accounts; withholding transcripts.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. **That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23.1-1305.1 as follows:**

§ 23.1-411.1. Student accounts; unpaid student loan debt; withholding of transcripts prohibited.

A. As used in this section:

"Academic transcript" means a transcript issued by an institution of higher education, whether official or unofficial, of a current or former student's enrollment status and academic record.

"Outstanding debt" means any legally enforceable monetary obligation, claim, or sum due or owed, or alleged to be due or owed, by a student presently or formerly enrolled at a public institution of higher education to such institution.

B. No public institution of higher education shall condition the provision of an academic transcript to a current or former student enrolled at such institution on the payment of an outstanding debt if such student is requesting the academic transcript for the purpose of (i) applying for employment or (ii) pursuing opportunities in the Armed Forces or National Guard. In the event that a current or former student with an outstanding debt requests an academic transcript for any of the purposes set forth in clause (i) or (ii), the institution shall release such student's transcript directly to the employer, the prospective employer, or the applicable recruitment office.

C. No public institution of higher education shall condition the provision of an academic transcript to a current or former student enrolled at such institution on the repayment of an outstanding debt if (i) the outstanding debt is less than \$500 or (ii) the student has enrolled in a repayment plan and, as of the date such student requested his academic transcript, has made at least three consecutive monthly payments.

D. Each public institution of higher education shall clearly and prominently indicate on any materials or webpages relating to academic transcript requests the purposes and conditions set forth in subsections B and C dictating the provision of an academic transcript to a current or former student with an outstanding debt to such institution.