

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to develop policies and strategies*
3 *to eliminate the barriers between the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education and industry*
4 *and enhance the development of human capital in the Commonwealth.*

5 [H 547]

6 Approved

7 Whereas, excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level and high-quality research are two main
8 factors that contribute to a university's success; and

9 Whereas, a focus on quality research and teaching will bring about growth in revenues, attract higher
10 quality students and faculty, and higher rankings for Virginia-based universities; and

11 Whereas, for the Commonwealth's universities to maintain and enhance their positions at the
12 forefront of research on a national and international basis and draw industries to locate, incubate, and
13 grow to maturity in Virginia, they must recruit and retain top faculty; and

14 Whereas, the competitiveness of Virginia-based universities lies in the hands of high-quality faculty
15 and researchers with the drive to provide excellent education and build positive relationships with
16 industry; and

17 Whereas, these relationships lead to research and development of new technologies; and

18 Whereas, bringing new technologies from the research laboratory to the marketplace requires
19 academia and industry to work together in new and innovative ways; and

20 Whereas, investment in strategic areas will allow the Commonwealth to more fully benefit from its
21 investments in higher education and economic development; and

22 Whereas, new technologies can spawn new industries leading to new jobs, new products, and new
23 markets thereby multiplying their impact on the economy; now, therefore,

24 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

25 **1. § 1.** *The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) shall develop policies to eliminate*
26 *the barriers between the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education and industry and enhance the*
27 *development of human capital in the Commonwealth. These policies and strategies shall include a*
28 *review of (i) offering incentives for industry to partner with universities in the practical training of*
29 *undergraduate and graduate students; (ii) providing opportunities and incentives for corporate scientists*
30 *and engineers to have adjunct appointments at universities to train and collaborate with faculty and*
31 *students; (iii) assisting universities in acquiring funding to build or buy facilities where academic labs*
32 *and corporate entities can work together; (iv) providing opportunities and assistance for academic*
33 *researchers to take one- to two-year sabbaticals in a corporate setting or national lab and bring that*
34 *experience back to the institution; (v) increasing the two-year leave of absence for science and*
35 *engineering faculty to generate more industrial-sponsored research; (vi) allowing industry to fully fund*
36 *faculty salaries and allow the faculty to work in industry while remaining a university employee, with*
37 *proper safeguards in place; and (vii) allowing faculty to be part-time university employees and part-time*
38 *industry employees, also with proper safeguards in place. The State Council of Higher Education for*
39 *Virginia (SCHEV) shall report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 30,*
40 *2004.*

41 **§ 2.** *All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to SCHEV, for the development of*
42 *these policies and strategies, upon request.*