

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 22.1-207.5 and 23-9.2:3.9, relating*
3 *to credit awarded for courses completed in American Sign Language.*

4 [H 1435]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 22.1-207.5 and 23-9.2:3.9 as**
8 **follows:**9 § 22.1-207.5. *Instruction in American Sign Language.*10 *"American Sign Language" means the natural language recognized globally that is used by members*
11 *of the deaf community and that is linguistically complete with unique rules for language structure and*
12 *use that include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse.*13 *Local school boards may offer one or more elective courses in American Sign Language. If offered,*
14 *local school boards shall (i) grant academic credit for completion of an American Sign Language*
15 *course on the same basis as the successful completion of a foreign language course; and (ii) count*
16 *completion of an American Sign Language course toward the fulfillment of any foreign language*
17 *requirement for graduation.*18 § 23-9.2:3.9. *Academic credit for American Sign Language.*19 *Academic credit received for either successful completion of American Sign Language courses in a*
20 *secondary school or higher education institution shall be counted toward satisfaction of the foreign*
21 *language entrance requirements of a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth.*

ENROLLED

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