

# 2012 SESSION

## SENATE SUBSTITUTE

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### SENATE BILL NO. 458

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
on February 2, 2012)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Barker)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 23-9.2:8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to policies addressing suicidal students.*

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

**1. That § 23-9.2:8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 23-9.2:8. Policies addressing suicidal students.

The governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall develop and implement policies that advise students, faculty, and staff, including residence hall staff, of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior. The policies shall ensure that no student is penalized or expelled solely for attempting to commit suicide, or seeking mental health treatment for suicidal thoughts or behaviors. Nothing in this section shall preclude any public institution of higher education from establishing policies and procedures for appropriately dealing with students who are a danger to themselves, or to others, and whose behavior is disruptive to the academic community.

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