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**HOUSE BILL NO. 747**

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 7, 2014

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 23-7.4:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to in-state tuition; Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.*

Patrons—Rust, Plum and Yost

Referred to Committee on Education

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

**1. That § 23-7.4:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 23-7.4:2. Eligibility for in-state or reduced tuition for students not domiciled in Virginia; tuition grants and in-state tuition for members of the National Guard.**

A. Students who live outside the Commonwealth and have been employed full time inside Virginia for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement for in-state tuition shall be eligible for in-state tuition charges if such student has paid Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in the Commonwealth for the tax year prior to the date of the alleged entitlement. Students claimed as dependents for federal and Virginia income tax purposes who live outside the Commonwealth shall become eligible for in-state tuition charges if the nonresident parents claiming them as dependents have been employed full time inside Virginia for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement and paid Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in the Commonwealth for the tax year prior to the date of the alleged entitlement. Such students shall continue to be eligible for in-state tuition charges for so long as they or their qualifying parent is employed full time in Virginia, paying Virginia income taxes on all taxable income earned in the Commonwealth and the student is claimed as a dependent for Virginia and federal income tax purposes.

B. Any person who (i) is a member of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Virginia and has a minimum remaining obligation of two years, (ii) has satisfactorily completed required initial active duty service, (iii) is satisfactorily performing duty in accordance with regulations of the National Guard, and (iv) is enrolled in any state institution of higher education, any private, accredited, and nonprofit institution of higher education in the Commonwealth whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate or graduate education and not to provide religious training or theological education, any course or program offered by any such institution or any public career and technical education school shall be eligible for a grant in the amount of the difference between the full cost of tuition and any other educational benefits for which he is eligible as a member of the National Guard. Application for a grant shall be made to the Department of Military Affairs. Grants shall be awarded from funds available for the purpose by such Department.

Notwithstanding the foregoing requirement that a member of the National Guard have a minimum of two years remaining on his service obligation, if a member is activated or deployed for federal military service, an additional day shall be added to the member's eligibility for the grant for each day of active federal service up to 365 days. Additional credit, or credit for state duty, may be given at the discretion of the Adjutant General.

In addition, any person who met the requirements for in-state tuition prior to being called to active duty in the National Guard of another state shall be eligible for in-state tuition following completion of active duty service if during active duty that person maintained one or more of the following in Virginia rather than in another state or jurisdiction: a driver's license, motor vehicle registration, voter registration, employment, property ownership, or sources of financial support. Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as in-state students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee revenue policies.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 23-7.4 or any other provision of the law to the contrary, the governing board of any state institution of higher education or the governing board of the Virginia Community College System may charge the same tuition as is charged to any person domiciled in Virginia pursuant to the provisions of § 23-7.4 to:

1. Any person enrolled in one of the institution's programs designated by the State Council of Higher Education who is domiciled in and is entitled to reduced tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in any state which is a party to the Southern Regional Education Compact which has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia;

2. Any student from a foreign country who is enrolled in a foreign exchange program approved by the state institution during the same period that an exchange student from the same state institution, who

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59 is entitled to in-state tuition pursuant to § 23-7.4, is attending the foreign institution; and

60 3. Any high school or magnet school student, not otherwise qualified for in-state tuition, who is  
61 enrolled in courses specifically designed as part of the high school or magnet school curriculum in a  
62 community college for which he may, upon successful completion, receive high school and community  
63 college credit pursuant to a dual enrollment agreement between the high school or magnet school and  
64 the community college.

65 D. The governing board of the Virginia Community College System shall charge in-state tuition to  
66 any person enrolled in one of the System's institutions who lives within a 30-mile radius of a Virginia  
67 institution, is domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning  
68 in any state which is contiguous to Virginia and which has similar reciprocal provisions for persons  
69 domiciled in Virginia.

70 Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as  
71 in-state students for the purposes of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition and fee  
72 revenue policies.

73 E. The board of the University of Virginia's College at Wise and the board of visitors of the  
74 University of Virginia may charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled at the University of Virginia's  
75 College at Wise who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is  
76 domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Kentucky,  
77 if Kentucky has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia.

78 In addition, the board of the University of Virginia's College at Wise and the board of visitors of the  
79 University of Virginia may charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled at the University of Virginia's  
80 College at Wise who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is  
81 domiciled in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Tennessee,  
82 if Tennessee has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia. The board of the  
83 University of Virginia's College at Wise and its partners or associates offering programs jointly at a  
84 regional off-campus center may also charge reduced tuition to any person enrolled in such joint  
85 programs who lives within a 50-mile radius of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, is domiciled  
86 in, and is entitled to in-state tuition charges in the institutions of higher learning in Tennessee, if  
87 Tennessee has similar reciprocal provisions for persons domiciled in Virginia. Any such respective  
88 partners or associates shall establish and charge separately tuition rates for their independent classes or  
89 programs at such regional centers.

90 Any out-of-state students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection and subsection D shall  
91 be counted as out-of-state students for the purposes of determining admissions, enrollment, and tuition  
92 and fee revenue policies.

93 F. Public institutions of higher education may enter into special arrangement contracts with Virginia  
94 employers or authorities controlling federal installations or agencies located in Virginia. The special  
95 arrangement contracts shall be for the purpose of providing reduced rate tuition charges for the  
96 employees of the Virginia employers or federal personnel when the employers or federal authorities are  
97 assuming the liability for paying, to the extent permitted by federal law, the tuition for the employees or  
98 personnel in question and the employees or personnel are classified by the requirements of this section  
99 as out-of-state.

100 Special arrangement contracts with Virginia employers or federal installations or agencies may be for  
101 group instruction in facilities provided by the employer or federal authority or in the institution's  
102 facilities or on a student-by-student basis for specific employment-related programs.

103 Special arrangement contracts shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years and shall be  
104 reviewed for legal sufficiency by the Office of the Attorney General prior to signing. All rates agreed to  
105 by the public institutions shall be at least equal to in-state tuition and shall only be granted by the  
106 institution with which the employer or the federal authorities have a valid contract for students for  
107 whom the employer or federal authorities are paying the tuition charges.

108 All special arrangement contracts with authorities controlling federal installations or agencies shall  
109 include a specific number of students to be served at reduced rates.

110 Nothing in this subsection shall change the domiciliary status of any student for the purposes of  
111 enrollment reporting or calculating the proportions of general funds and tuition and fees contributed to  
112 the cost of education.

113 G. Any active duty members, activated guard or reservist members, or guard or reservist members  
114 mobilized or on temporary active orders for six months or more, that reside in Virginia, shall pay  
115 tuition, to the public institution of higher education in which they are enrolled, in an amount no more  
116 than the institution's in-state tuition rate.

117 H. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, veterans residing within the Commonwealth shall be  
118 eligible for in-state tuition charges. Any students granted in-state tuition pursuant to this subsection shall  
119 be counted as in-state students for the purpose of determining college admissions, enrollment, and tuition  
120 and fee revenue policies.

121 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a student shall be eligible for in-state tuition if (i) he  
122 has attended a public or private high school in the Commonwealth for at least three years; (ii) he has  
123 graduated from a public or private high school in the Commonwealth or has received a General  
124 Education Development (GED) certificate in the Commonwealth; (iii) he has registered as an entering  
125 student or is enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth; (iv) he has  
126 provided an I-797 Approval Notice stating that he has been approved for Deferred Action for Childhood  
127 Arrivals by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and (v) he has submitted evidence that he or, in  
128 the case of a dependent student, at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis has  
129 filed, unless exempted by state law, Virginia income tax returns for at least three years prior to the date  
130 of enrollment. Such student shall remain eligible for in-state tuition for as long as he maintains  
131 continuous enrollment in the public institution of higher education and retains status under Deferred  
132 Action for Childhood Arrivals.

133 2. That this Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher Education Equity Act of 2014."