

2015 SESSION

INTRODUCED

15102669D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1508

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 5, 2015

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 23 a section numbered 23-9.2:15, relating to institutions of higher education; sexual assault; memorandum of understanding and policies.*

Patrons—Sullivan and Krupicka

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 23 a section numbered 23-9.2:15 as follows:

§ 23-9.2:15. *Sexual assault; memorandum of understanding; policies.*

A. The governing board of each public or private institution of higher education shall establish a written memorandum of understanding with a local sexual assault crisis center or other victim support service in order to provide sexual assault victims with immediate access to a confidential, independent advocate who can provide a trauma-informed response that includes an explanation of options for moving forward.

B. The governing board of each public or private institution of higher education shall adopt policies that mandate the referral of a sexual assault victim to the sexual assault crisis center or other victim support service, provide clear guidance on linking victims to other community resources, provide options for victims who do not want to make an official report to make an anonymous report, and provide amnesty for victims who are concerned that an official report might jeopardize their academic status.

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