

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23-7.4:8, relating to alternative*
3 *tuition or fee structures.*

4
5 Approved

[H 961]

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

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23-7.4:8 as follows:**

8 **§ 23-7.4:8. *Alternative tuition or fee structures.***

9 *Any public institution of higher education may offer alternative tuition or fee structures to students*
10 *that result in lower costs of attendance, including discounted tuition, flat tuition rates, discounted*
11 *student fees, or student fee and student services flexibility, to any first-time, incoming freshman*
12 *undergraduate student who (i) has established domicile, as that term is defined in § 23-7.4, in the*
13 *Commonwealth and (ii) enrolls full time with the intent to earn a degree in a program that leads to*
14 *employment in a high-demand field in the region. Such an alternative tuition or fee structure may be*
15 *renewed each year if the recipient maintains eligibility for the alternative tuition and fee structure. The*
16 *State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall offer guidance, upon request, to any public*
17 *institution of higher education in establishing an alternative tuition or fee structure pursuant to this*
18 *section.*

19 **2. That the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (the Council) shall develop**
20 **recommendations regarding financial incentives and benefits that might be offered to public**
21 **institutions of higher education that offer alternative tuition or fee structures pursuant to this act.**
22 **Such incentives and benefits may be related to targeted economic and innovation incentives**
23 **pursuant to subdivision A 3 of § 23-38.87:16 of the Code of Virginia, base adequacy funding, or**
24 **biennial assessments of institutional performance as set forth in Part 4 of the general**
25 **appropriation act and § 23-9.6:1.01 of the Code of Virginia. The Council shall report its**
26 **recommendations to the Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitiveness of Virginia Higher**
27 **Education no later than November 1, 2016.**

ENROLLED

HB961ER