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SENATE BILL NO. 935

Offered January 10, 2020

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-506.1, relating to public institutions of higher education; exemption from out-of-state tuition rates.

Patrons—Boysko, Hashmi, Marsden, Barker, Bell, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Howell, Locke, Lucas, Mason, McClellan, McPike, Morrissey, Saslaw, Spruill and Surovell

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23.1-506.1 as follows:

§ 23.1-506.1. Exemption from out-of-state tuition rates.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual shall be exempt from paying out-of-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth if he meets the following criteria: (i) attended high school for at least one year in the Commonwealth and either (a) graduated from a public or private high school or program of home instruction in the Commonwealth or (b) passed a high school equivalency examination approved by the Secretary of Education and (ii) registers as an entering student or is enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. This exemption shall be available to students who meet the criteria regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, except that students with currently valid visas issued under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(F), 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii), 1101(a)(15)(J) (including only students or trainees), or 1101(a)(15)(M) are not eligible. Information obtained in the implementation of this section is confidential and shall be used or disclosed only for purposes of administering this program.