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HOUSE BILL NO. 1760

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-2101 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 23.1 an article numbered 8, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-643 through 23.1-647, relating to Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps; established.

Patrons—Reid, Shin and Williams Graves

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-2101 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 6 of Title 23.1 an article numbered 8, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-643 through 23.1-647, as follows:

§ 2.2-2101. Prohibition against service by legislators on boards, commissions, and councils within the executive branch; exceptions.

Members of the General Assembly shall be ineligible to serve on boards, commissions, and councils within the executive branch of state government who are responsible for administering programs established by the General Assembly. Such prohibition shall not extend to boards, commissions, and councils engaged solely in policy studies or commemorative activities. If any law directs the appointment of any member of the General Assembly to a board, commission, or council in the executive branch of state government that is responsible for administering programs established by the General Assembly, such portion of such law shall be void, and the Governor shall appoint another person from the Commonwealth at large to fill such a position.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to members of the Board for Branch Pilots, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 54.1-901; to members of the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 23.1-3126; to members of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 23.1-3121; to members of the Board of Directors of the New College Institute, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 23.1-3112; to members of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 22.1-305.2; to members of the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 2.2-5204; to members of the Board of Veterans Services, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 2.2-2452; to members appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Roanoke Higher Education Authority pursuant to § 23.1-3117; to members of the Board of Trustees of the Online Virginia Network Authority, who shall be appointed as provided in § 23.1-3136; to members of the Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 2.2-2423; to members of the Information Technology Advisory Council, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 2.2-2699.5; to members of the Board of Visitors of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 22.1-346.2; to members of the Substance Abuse Services Council, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 2.2-2696; to members of the Criminal Justice Services Board, who shall be appointed as provided in § 9.1-108; to members of the State Executive Council for Children's Services, who shall be appointed as provided in § 2.2-2648; to members of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 2.2-2471; to members of the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund Board, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 51.1-1201; to members of the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 2.2-222.3; to members of the Forensic Science Board, who shall be appointed as provided for in § 9.1-1109; to members of the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation, who shall be appointed as provided in § 2.2-2735; to members of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board, who shall be appointed as provided in § 2.2-2485; to members of the Henrietta Lacks Commission, who shall be appointed as provided in § 2.2-2538; ~~or~~ to members of the Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans, who shall be appointed as provided in § 2.2-2552; *or to members of the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Commission, who shall be appointed as provided in § 23.1-646.*

Article 8.**Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps.****§ 23.1-643. Definitions.**

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59 As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

60 "Commission" means the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Commission created pursuant
61 to § 23.1-646.

62 "Department" means the Department of Education.

63 "Fund" means the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Scholarship Fund created pursuant to
64 § 23.1-645.

65 "High-need school" has the same meaning as set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11)(A).

66 "Participating institution" means Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Radford University,
67 and Virginia Commonwealth University.

68 "Program" means the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Scholarship Program created
69 pursuant to § 23.1-645.

70 "School board" means the school board that governs a school division.

71 **§ 23.1-644. Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps; purpose.**

72 The Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps is established for the purpose of attracting and
73 retaining public elementary and secondary school teachers in school divisions in the Commonwealth by
74 increasing the interest in and affordability of obtaining teaching degrees and certifications for students
75 enrolled at participating institutions and requiring such students to fill teacher positions for specified
76 periods of time and meet other requirements set out in this article.

77 **§ 23.1-645. Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Scholarship Fund and Program**
78 **established; administration; criteria.**

79 A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the
80 Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Scholarship Fund. The Fund shall be established on the
81 books of the Comptroller. All moneys appropriated by the General Assembly, and from any other
82 sources, public or private, shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned
83 on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the
84 Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but
85 shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of disbursing
86 moneys to participating institutions for the award of scholarships to students pursuant to the Program
87 established in subsection B. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State
88 Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the chairman of the
89 Commission.

90 B. There is hereby established the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Scholarship Program
91 for the purpose of disbursing moneys from the Fund to participating institutions for the award of
92 scholarships to students as set forth in this section, including stipends as described in subsection I.

93 C. Moneys from the Fund shall fully fund 25 Program scholarships each year per participating
94 institution to students attending the participating institutions. The Commission shall establish an
95 application process for students who have been accepted for admission to such institutions to apply to
96 the Program.

97 D. The Program shall accept applications from any student participating in any academic programs
98 in the areas of public elementary and secondary school education offered by a participating institution.

99 E. The Commission shall determine 25 awardees and five alternates for each participating institution
100 from students admitted to such institutions who applied to the Program. Each student accepted to and
101 electing to participate in the Program shall enter into a contract with the Commonwealth that outlines
102 the terms, conditions, and responsibilities of the student, of the Commonwealth in its administration of
103 the Program, and of the participating institution. Each student shall be at least 18 years of age at the
104 time that the contract is signed. A contract under this subsection shall include a provision that each
105 student is required to complete one year of teaching at a high-need public school in the Commonwealth
106 per each year of school paid for by the Commonwealth. Upon successful execution of a contract
107 between the student and the Commonwealth, a scholarship awarded under the Fund shall cover the full
108 expenses of tuition, room and board, and other required fees for a student to attend a participating
109 institution and complete a degree or certification eligible for the Program as described in subsection D.
110 A student shall be permitted to live off campus and receive the full scholarship funds, but the
111 Commonwealth shall not be required to cover more than the cost of living on campus to such student. If
112 a student requires additional years to complete an academic program or certification beyond the
113 standard number of years required to complete such academic program or certification, the Commission
114 may elect for the Commonwealth to pay for such additional time and add such additional time to the
115 time that the student is required to teach upon graduation under the Program.

116 F. Scholarships shall automatically renew each academic year so long as the student (i) maintains a
117 grade point average of at least 2.75 on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent, (ii) maintains satisfactory
118 academic progress toward receiving a degree or certification eligible for the Program, and (iii) is not
119 subject to any academic sanctions or other character and fitness problems as determined by the
120 Commission.

G. In the event that a student terminates his contract prior to completion of the Program, whether during completion of an eligible degree or certification as described in subsection D or completion of the required teaching period as described in subsection E, such student shall be liable to the Commonwealth for all funds expended from the Fund up until the point of departing from the Program. Such funds shall be converted to a student loan to be paid back by the student.

H. The Department, the Council, and participating institutions shall establish a support program at each participating institution that shall include cohort work groups for participating students, field trips, additional professional development and continuing education programs, community outreach, and other opportunities that encourage students to understand the value and importance of becoming a teacher and to help ensure that students successfully complete the Program.

I. The Commission, the Council, and participating institutions shall, working with local school boards, develop an experiential learning program to prepare participating students for all aspects of their future careers as teachers and shall establish guidelines for participation in such program and the payment of a stipend for each participating student.

J. Upon successfully graduating from a participating institution, each student shall be paid the starting salary for a teacher in the school division where he is employed. The starting salary shall be paid for by the local school board.

§ 23.1-646. Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Commission established.

A. There is hereby established the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Commission in the executive branch of state government for the purpose of (i) developing a process for prospective teachers to apply to the Program; (ii) developing a contract that prospective teachers will sign before entering a participating institution under the Program; (iii) developing a process for tracking student compliance with the Program after graduation from a participating institution pursuant to subsection B of § 23.1-647; (iv) ensuring that students in the Program meet all qualifications for the program of the participating institution to which they have applied; (v) disbursing moneys from the Fund to participating institutions for the award of scholarships to scholarship recipients; (vi) providing an annual report to the General Assembly on the status of the Program; and (vii) making recommendations for Program improvements regarding pay, pay structure, recruiting approach, turnover, retention efforts, and number of needed positions. The Commission shall administer the Program and shall carry out the goals and purposes of the Program set forth in this article.

B. The Commission shall have a total membership of 12 members that shall consist of eight nonlegislative citizen members and four legislative members. The eight nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, as follows: one representative from the Department, one representative from the Council, one representative from the Virginia School Board Association, one representative from Longwood University, one representative from Norfolk State University, one representative from Radford University, one representative from Virginia Commonwealth University, and one educator certified in the Commonwealth who still serves as a teacher in the classroom. The four legislative members shall be appointed as follows: one member of the Senate Committee on Education and Health or his designee, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and three members of the House Committee on Education or their designees, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates. Legislative members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. Nonlegislative citizen members shall serve terms of four years and may be reappointed. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, are for the unexpired terms. Vacancies are filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

C. The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its members. The Commission shall meet quarterly, and the chairman and vice-chairman shall establish a meeting schedule on an annual basis. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. Legislative members of the Commission shall receive compensation as provided in § 30-19.12, and all members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of compensation and expenses of the members shall be provided by the Fund.

D. The Council shall provide staff support to the Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

§ 23.1-647. Hiring; tracking compliance.

A. All issues related to applications and employment shall be between students and the school divisions to which they apply and not the Commission.

B. The Commission shall develop a process for tracking student compliance with the Program after graduation. As part of tracking such compliance, each student in the Program shall be required to submit evidence that the school at which he is employed is a high-need school.

2. That the members of the Virginia Teacher Residency Training Corps Commission (the

182 Commission) established pursuant to § 23.1-646 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act,
183 shall be appointed no later than September 1, 2023, and that on or after September 1, 2023, the
184 Commission shall begin meeting to establish the parameters for the Virginia Teacher Residency
185 Training Corps Scholarship Program (the Program) as set forth in § 23.1-645 of the Code of
186 Virginia, as created by this act, and to award the first scholarships pursuant to the Program prior
187 to the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year.